MARVEL
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
WITNESS THE FEARFUL FATE OF AN X-MAN!
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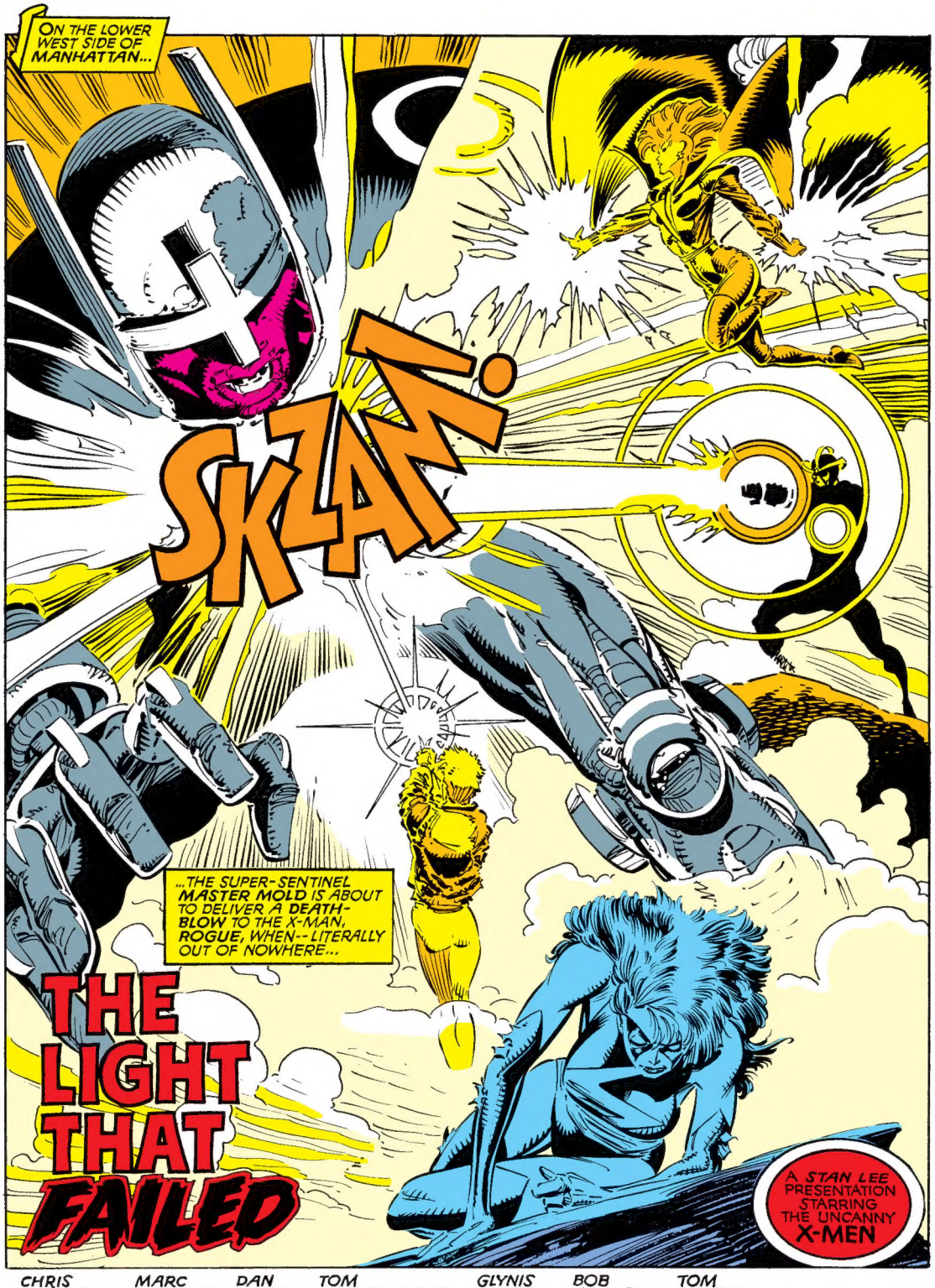
WHAT PRICE VICTORY?



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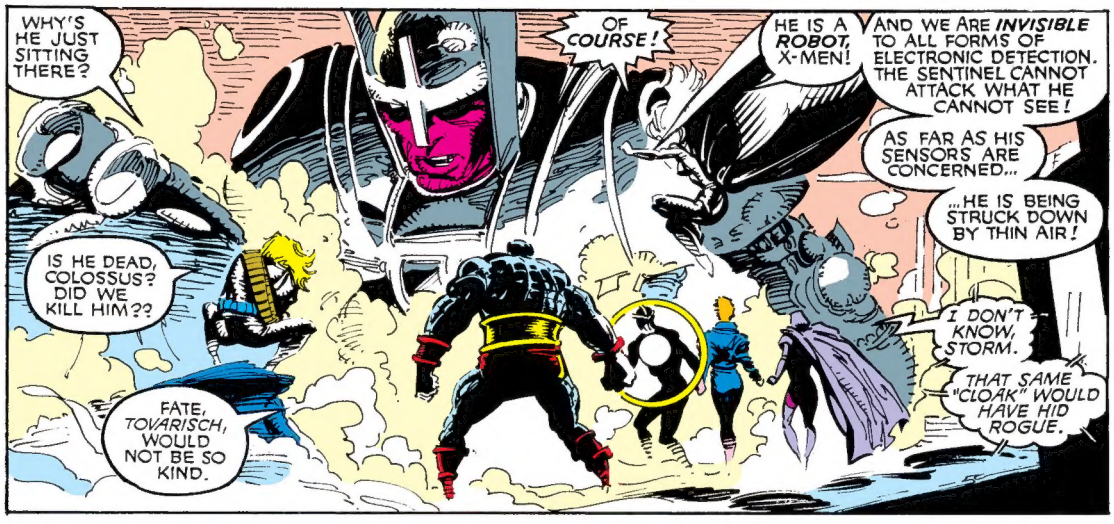
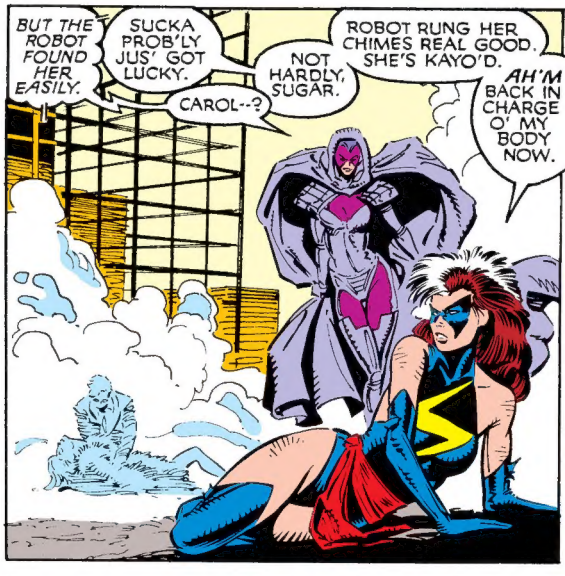
ALARM ALARM ALARM--
-- THIS UNIT UNDER ATTACK--
-- BY THREE DISTINCT FORMS OF DIRECTED ENERGY BEAMS!
INITIATING DAMAGE CONTROL AND THREAT ANALYSIS!
THANK HEAVEN YOU HEARD MY PSICALL!
IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO, PSYLOCKE, THAT WAS SOME TELEPATHIC SHOUT!
AND YOU'VE GATEWAY TO THANK FOR TELEPORTING US HERE IN TIME.
OUR FOE IS A ROBOT?
CHECK OUT THOSE BEADY BIG EYES, BOSS--
--AND THE BASIC DESIGN CONFIGURATION--
--LOOKS AWFULLY LOT LIKE A SENTINEL.
WILL WE NEVER BE FREE OF THOSE METAL MONSTERS?!
WHAT'S A "SENTINEL?"
ROBOT HUNTER-KILLERS, LONGSHOT, PROGRAMMED TO EXTERMINATE MUTANT-KIND.
ALARM!
SCANNING SYSTEMS, MAJOR DYSFUNCTION.
UNABLE TO COMPLETE COMBAT ANALYSIS AND RESPONSE.
CONTINUING ONGOING SYNTHESIS OF PRIME UNIT MASTER MOLD AND SUB-ORDINATE SENTINEL, IDENT-CODIFAXED NIMROD.
HOST UNIT NIMROD RESISTING SYSTEMS INTEGRATION.
THIS UNIT UNABLE TO ESTABLISH POSITIVE CONTACT WITH HOSTILE BIOFORMS.

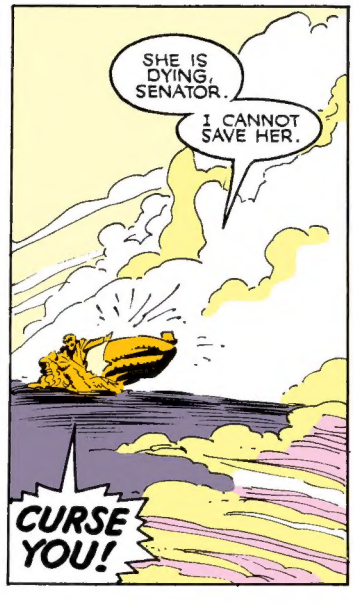

WHY'S HE JUST SITTING THERE?
OF COURSE!
HE IS A ROBOT, X-MEN!
AND WE ARE INVISIBLE TO ALL FORMS OF ELECTRONIC DETECTION. THE SENTINEL CANNOT ATTACK WHAT HE CANNOT SEE!
AS FAR AS HIS SENSORS ARE CONCERNED...
...HE IS BEING STRUCK DOWN BY THIN AIR!
IS HE DEAD, COLOSSUS? DID WE KILL HIM??
I DON'T KNOW, STORM.
THAT SAME "CLOAK" WOULD HAVE HID ROGUE.
FATE, TOVARISCH, WOULD NOT BE SO KIND.

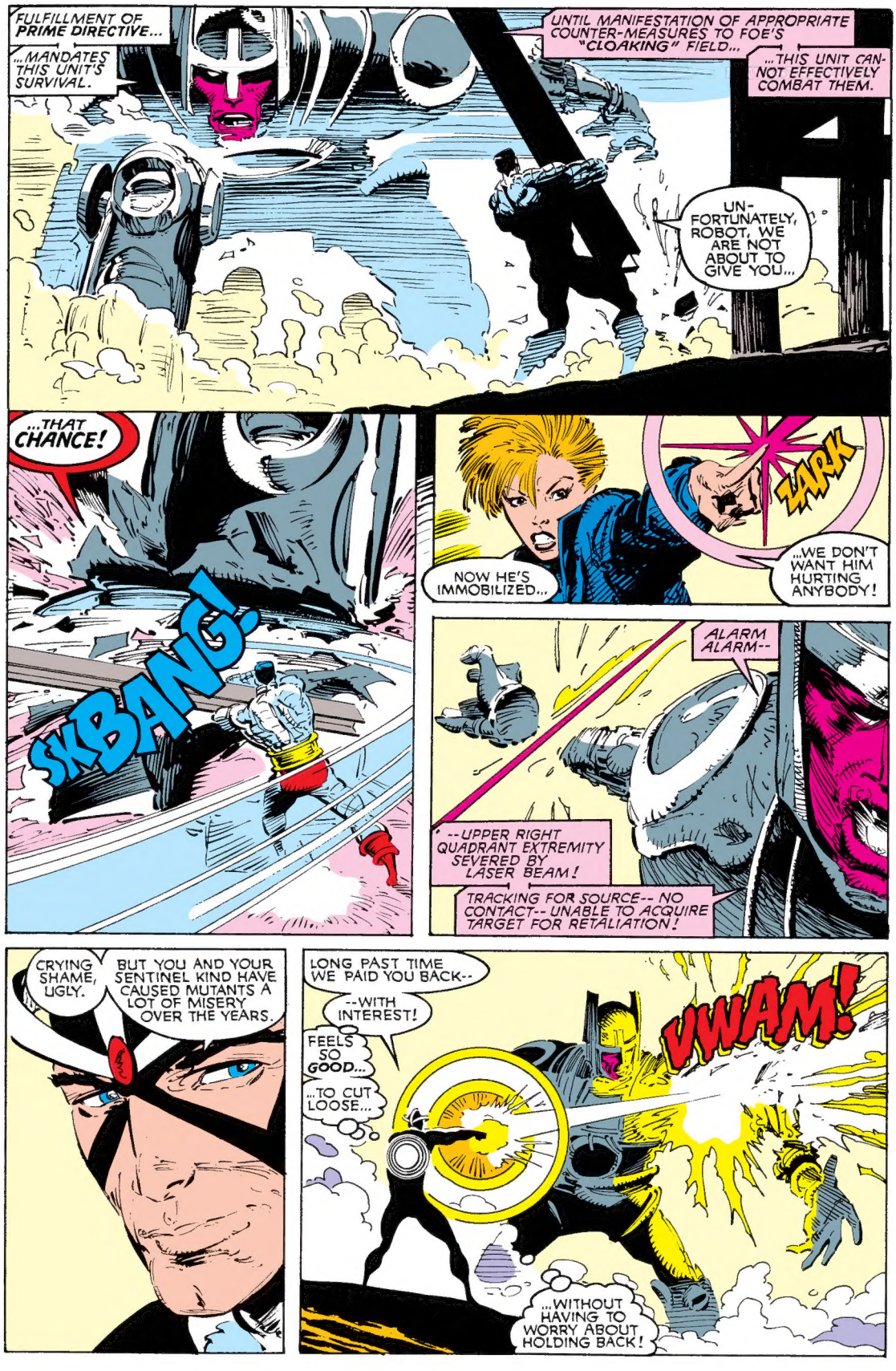

BUT THE ROBOT FOUND HER EASILY.
SUCKA PROB'LY JUS' GOT LUCKY.
CAROL--?
NOT HARDLY, SUGAR.
ROBOT RUNG HER CHIMES REAL GOOD. SHE'S KAYO'D.
AH'M BACK IN CHARGE O' MY BODY NOW.

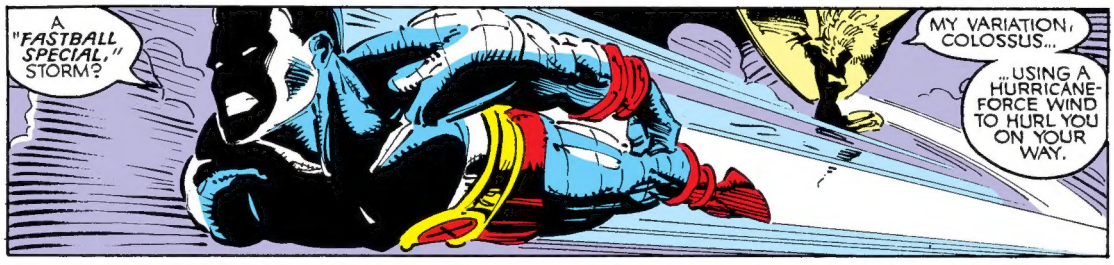
SHOOT, PSYLOCKE, YOU SEE THIS RAG SHE GOT ME WEARIN'?! WOMAN HAS NO TASTE AT ALL!
PLEASE-- WHOEVER YOU ARE--
--MY WIFE NEEDS HELP!

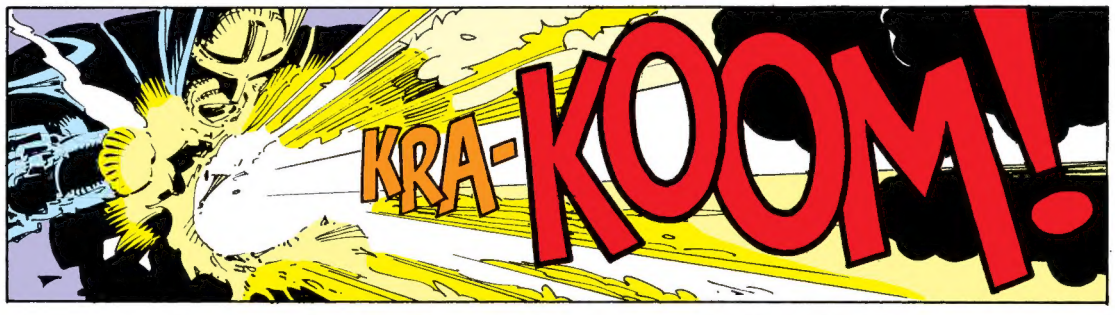
I'M SENATOR ROBERT KELLY-- PLEASE-- SHARON WAS TRYING TO HELP YOUR FRIEND-- PLEASE-- THE ROBOT BLEW UP OUR CAR--!
I AM SORRY.

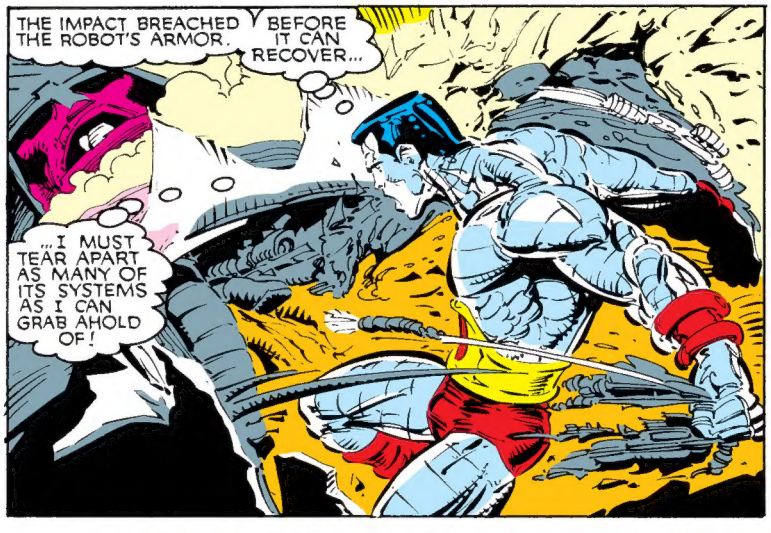
I CAN EASE HER PASSING...
...SO THAT IT IS QUICK AND WITHOUT PAIN. BEYOND THAT, NOTHING.
YOU'RE A MUTANT! YOU HAVE POWERS! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING-- PLEASE-- I BEG YOU!


SHE IS DYING, SENATOR.
I CANNOT SAVE HER.
CURSE YOU!

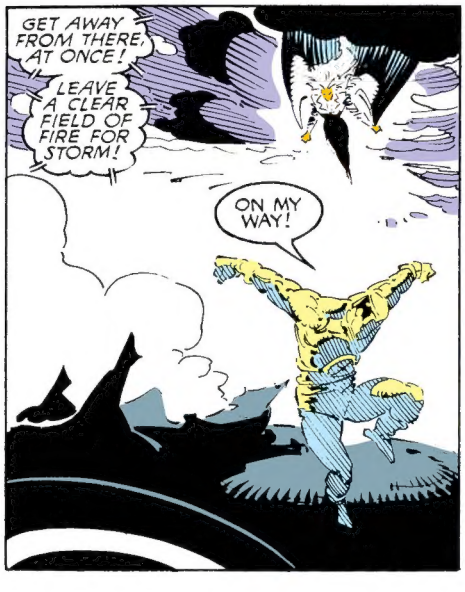

FULFILLMENT OF PRIME DIRECTIVE...
...MANDATES THIS UNIT'S SURVIVAL.
UNTIL MANIFESTATION OF APPROPRIATE COUNTER-MEASURES TO FOE'S "CLOAKING" FIELD...
...THIS UNIT CANNOT EFFECTIVELY COMBAT THEM.
UNFORTUNATELY, ROBOT, WE ARE NOT ABOUT TO GIVE YOU...
...THAT CHANCE!
SKBANG!
ZARK
NOW HE'S IMMOBILIZED...
...WE DON'T WANT HIM HURTING ANYBODY!
ALARM ALARM--
--UPPER RIGHT QUADRANT EXTREMITY SEVERED BY LASER BEAM!
TRACKING FOR SOURCE-- NO CONTACT-- UNABLE TO ACQUIRE TARGET FOR RETALIATION!
CRYING SHAME, UGLY.
BUT YOU AND YOUR SENTINEL KIND HAVE CAUSED MUTANTS A LOT OF MISERY OVER THE YEARS.
LONG PAST TIME WE PAID YOU BACK--
--WITH INTEREST!
FEELS SO GOOD...
...TO CUT LOOSE...
VWAM!
...WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT HOLDING BACK!

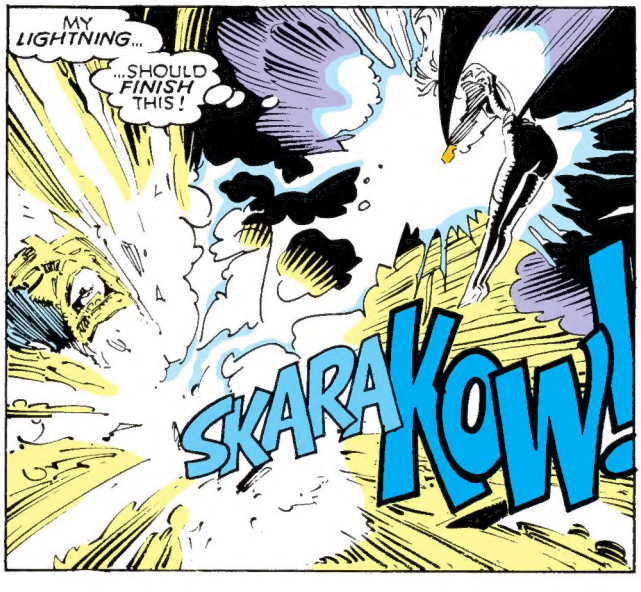

A "FASTBALL SPECIAL," STORM?
MY VARIATION, COLOSSUS...
...USING A HURRICANE-FORCE WIND TO HURL YOU ON YOUR WAY.


KRA-KOOM!


THE IMPACT BREACHED THE ROBOT'S ARMOR.
BEFORE IT CAN RECOVER...
...I MUST TEAR APART AS MANY OF ITS SYSTEMS AS I CAN GRAB AHOLD OF!

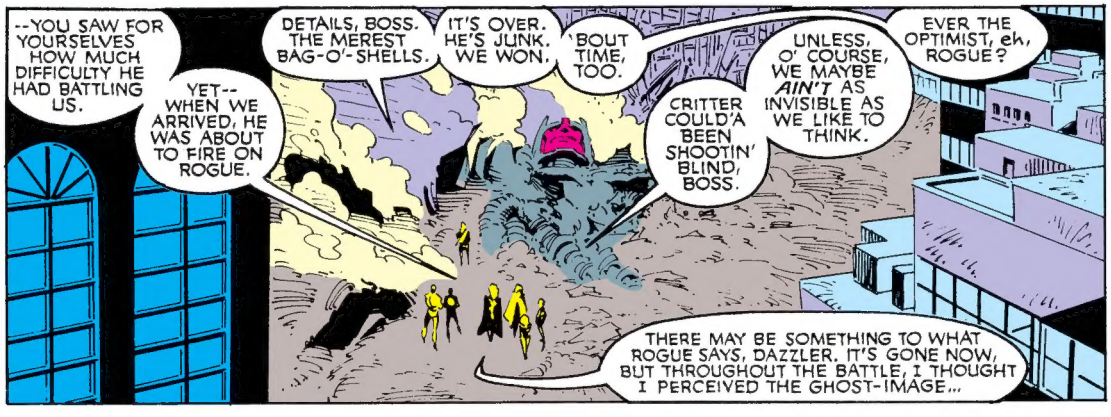
COLOSSUS!
PSYLOCKE-- CALLING ME TELEPATHICALLY!

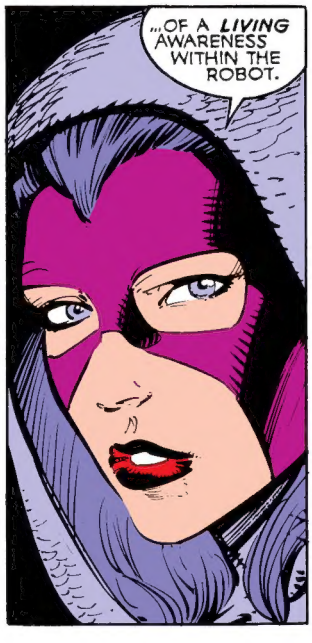

GET AWAY FROM THERE, AT ONCE!
LEAVE A CLEAR FIELD OF FIRE FOR STORM!
ON MY WAY!

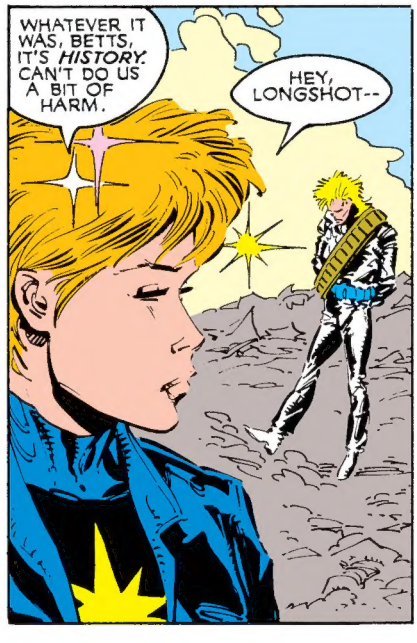

MY LIGHTNING...
...SHOULD FINISH THIS!
SKARAKOW!

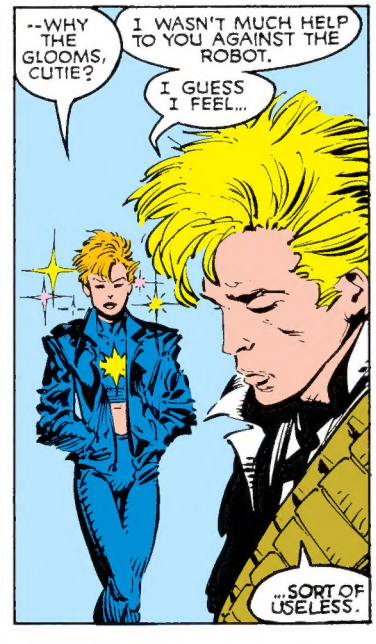
TALK ABOUT "SHORT AND SWEET."
YOU WILL HEAR NO COMPLAINTS FROM ME, COMRADE, ON THAT SCORE.
HEY-- WE X-MEN BAD, OR WHAT?
MASTER MOLD WAS BOLIVAR TRASK'S ORIGINAL SENTINEL MATRIX.
SUPPOSEDLY DESTROYED BY THE ORIGINAL X-MEN. *
*WAY BACK IN X-MEN #16. --HISTORIAN HARRAS

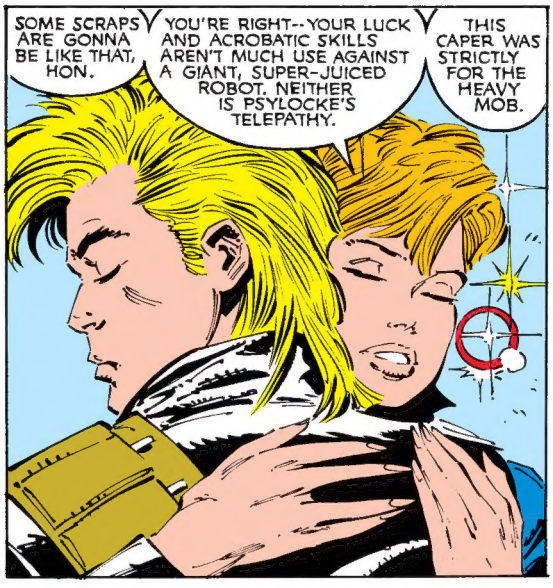
OLD BADDIES ARE LIKE US, SUGAR...
... THEY NEVER DIE.
THIS ONE, HE HAD A ROYAL BUG ABOUT A BUNCH'A MUTANTS HE CALLED "THE TWELVE."
GIVE YOU A BIG GUESS WHO THAT REFERS TO.
US, YOU MEAN, ALISON?
BUT WHY? THE WORLD BELIEVES US X-MEN TO BE DEAD--

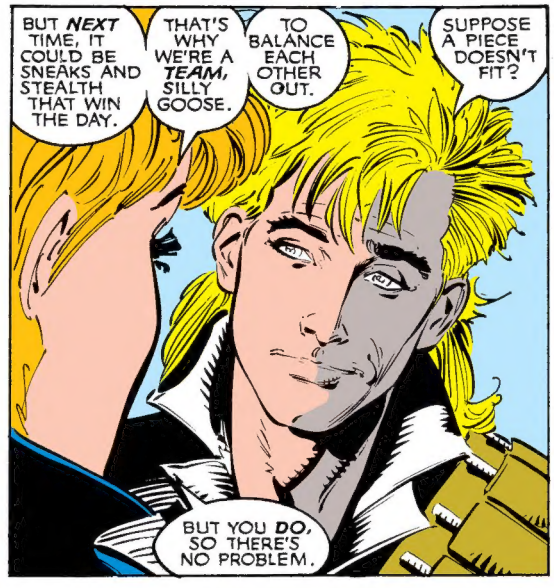

--YOU SAW FOR YOURSELVES HOW MUCH DIFFICULTY HE HAD BATTLING US.
YET-- WHEN WE ARRIVED, HE WAS ABOUT TO FIRE ON ROGUE.
DETAILS, BOSS. THE MEREST BAG-O'-SHELLS.
IT'S OVER. HE'S JUNK. WE WON.
'BOUT TIME, TOO.
CRITTER COULD'A BEEN SHOOTIN' BLIND, BOSS.
UNLESS, O' COURSE, WE MAYBE AIN'T AS INVISIBLE AS WE LIKE TO THINK.
EVER THE OPTIMIST, eh, ROGUE?
THERE MAY BE SOMETHING TO WHAT ROGUE SAYS, DAZZLER. IT'S GONE NOW, BUT THROUGHOUT THE BATTLE, I THOUGHT I PERCEIVED THE GHOST-IMAGE...

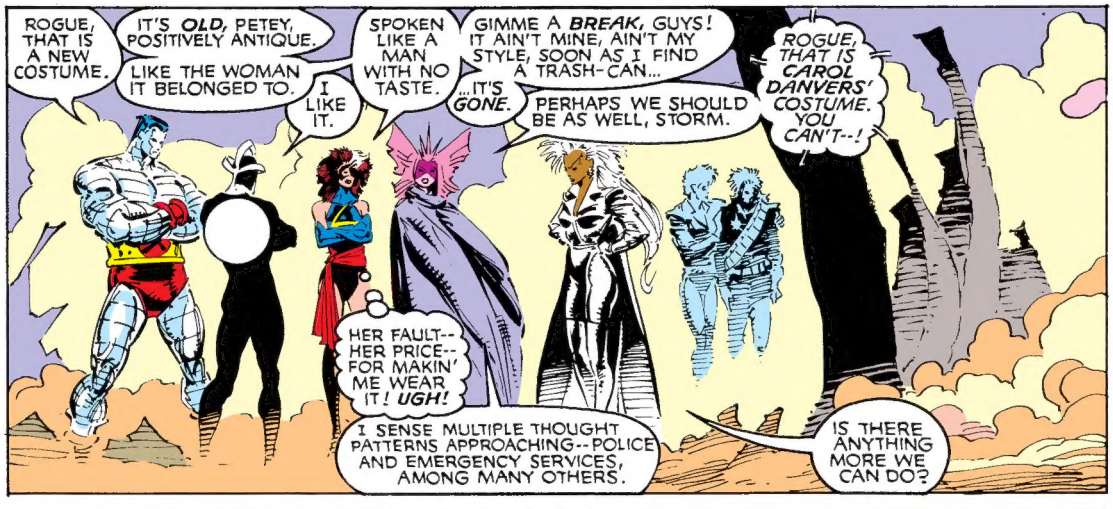

...OF A LIVING AWARENESS WITHIN THE ROBOT.


WHATEVER IT WAS, BETTS, IT'S HISTORY. CAN'T DO US A BIT OF HARM.
HEY, LONGSHOT--


--WHY THE GLOOMS, CUTIE?
I WASN'T MUCH HELP TO YOU AGAINST THE ROBOT.
I GUESS I FEEL...
...SORT OF USELESS.

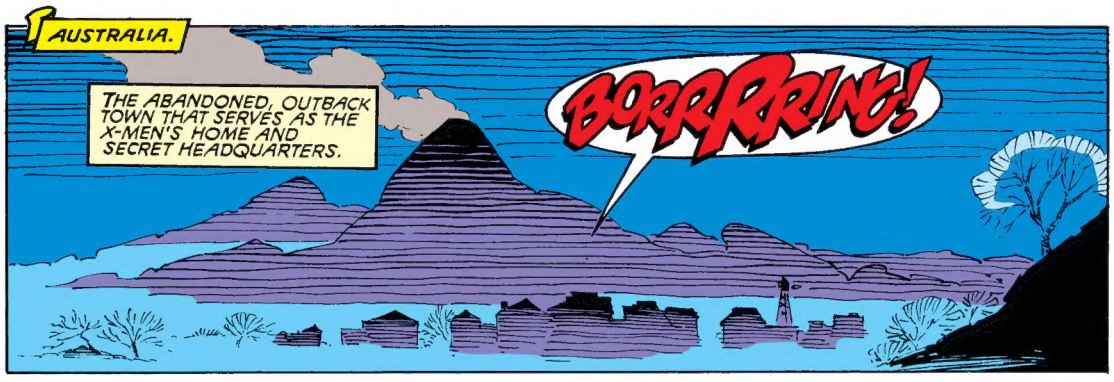

SOME SCRAPS ARE GONNA BE LIKE THAT, HON.
YOU'RE RIGHT--YOUR LUCK AND ACROBATIC SKILLS AREN'T MUCH USE AGAINST A GIANT, SUPER-JUICED ROBOT. NEITHER IS PSYLOCKE'S TELEPATHY.
THIS CAPER WAS STRICTLY FOR THE HEAVY MOB.

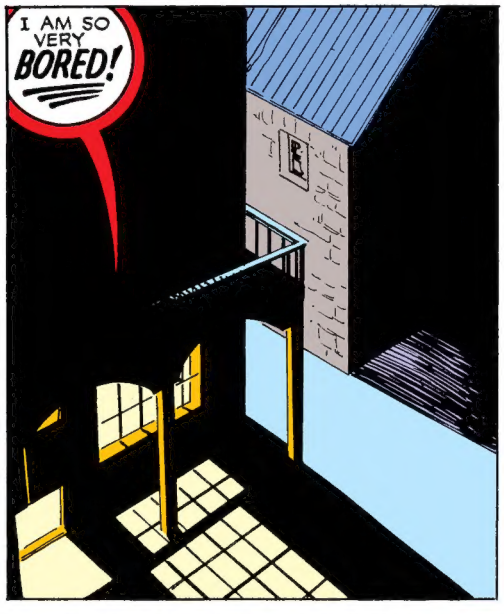

BUT NEXT TIME, IT COULD BE SNEAKS AND STEALTH THAT WIN THE DAY.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE A TEAM, SILLY GOOSE.
TO BALANCE EACH OTHER OUT.
SUPPOSE A PIECE DOESN'T FIT?
BUT YOU DO, SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM.

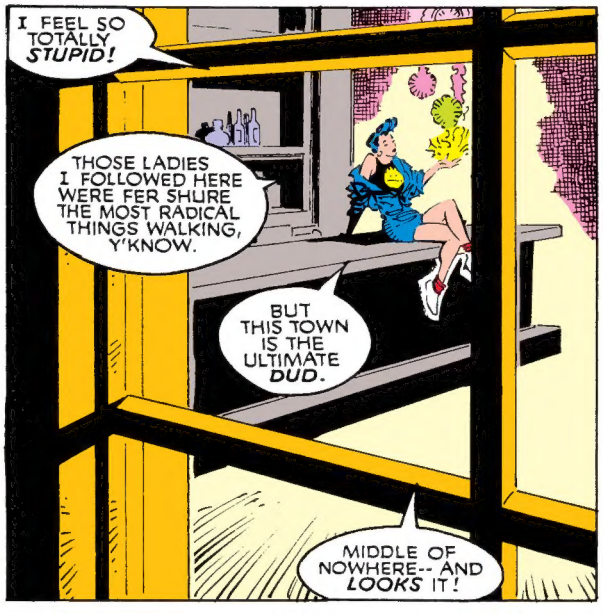

ROGUE, THAT IS A NEW COSTUME.
IT'S OLD, PETEY, POSITIVELY ANTIQUE.
LIKE THE WOMAN IT BELONGED TO.
I LIKE IT.
SPOKEN LIKE A MAN WITH NO TASTE.
GIMME A BREAK, GUYS! IT AIN'T MINE, AIN'T MY STYLE, SOON AS I FIND A TRASH-CAN...
...IT'S GONE.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE AS WELL, STORM.
ROGUE, THAT IS CAROL DANVERS' COSTUME. YOU CAN'T--!
HER FAULT--HER PRICE--FOR MAKIN' ME WEAR IT! UGH!
I SENSE MULTIPLE THOUGHT PATTERNS APPROACHING--POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, AMONG MANY OTHERS.
IS THERE ANYTHING MORE WE CAN DO?

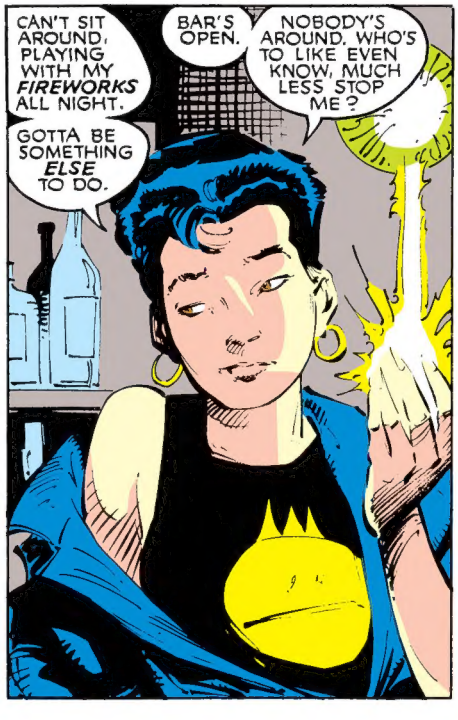
HATE TO SAY IT, BOSS--BUT IN SOME PEOPLES' EYES...

...WE'VE PROBABLY ALREADY DONE TOO MUCH.

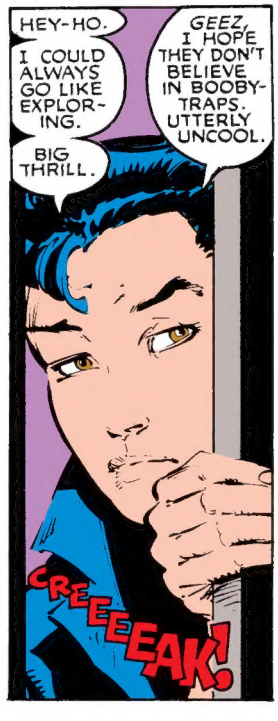

AUSTRALIA.
THE ABANDONED, OUTBACK TOWN THAT SERVES AS THE X-MEN'S HOME AND SECRET HEADQUARTERS.
BORRRRING!

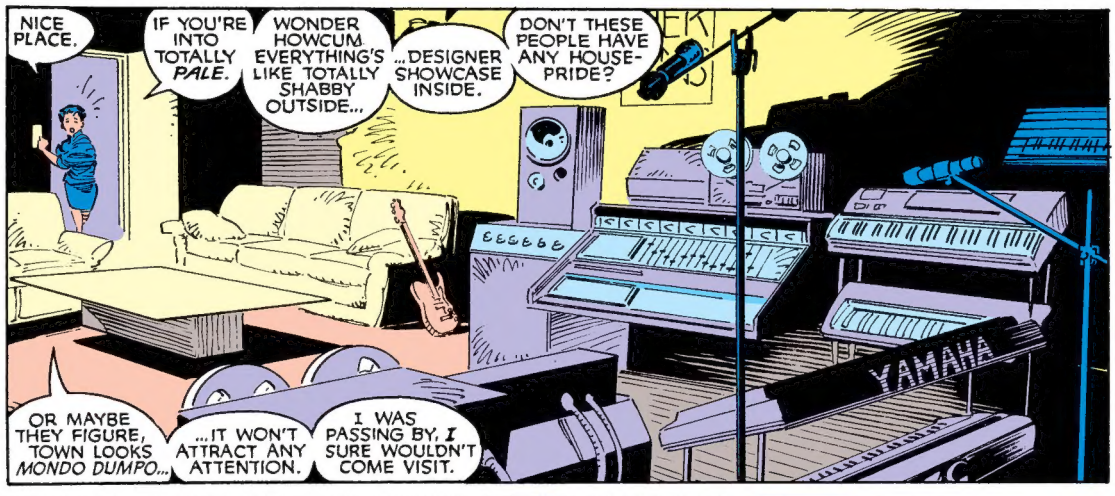

I AM SO VERY BORED!

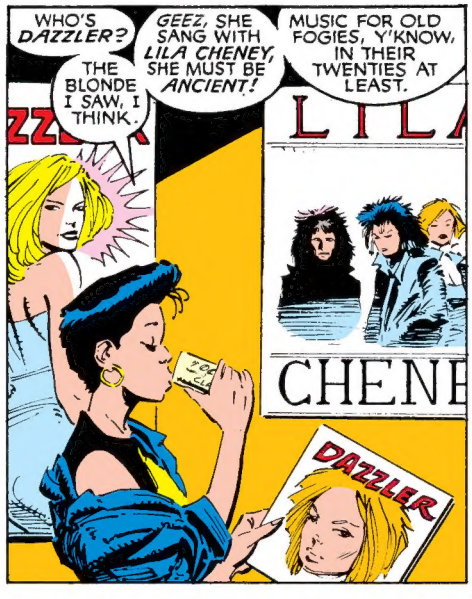

I FEEL SO TOTALLY STUPID!
THOSE LADIES I FOLLOWED HERE WERE FER SHURE THE MOST RADICAL THINGS WALKING, Y'KNOW.
BUT THIS TOWN IS THE ULTIMATE DUD.
MIDDLE OF NOWHERE-- AND LOOKS IT!

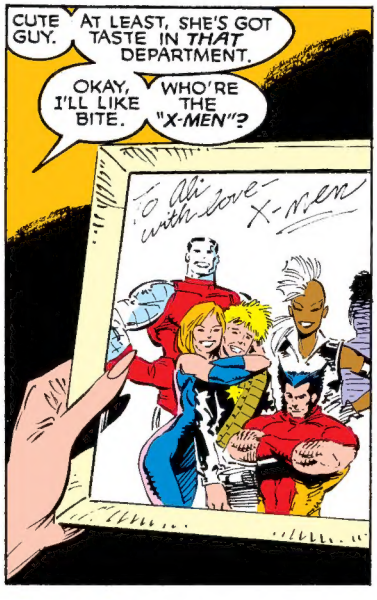

CAN'T SIT AROUND, PLAYING WITH MY FIREWORKS ALL NIGHT.
BAR'S OPEN.
NOBODY'S AROUND. WHO'S TO LIKE EVEN KNOW, MUCH LESS STOP ME?
GOTTA BE SOMETHING ELSE TO DO.

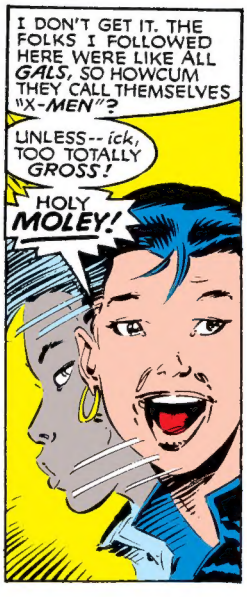
HOW TOTALLY SPAZZ.
BOOZING MYSELF STINKING SICK, AIN'T THAT THE FUN WAY TO PASS MY TIME.
SO WHAT, THEN?
WAY EVERYBODY RUSHED OUTTA HERE, MUST'A BEEN SOME REAL EMERGENCY, Y'KNOW.
WONDER WHERE THEY WENT.


HEY-HO.
I COULD ALWAYS GO LIKE EXPLOR-ING.
BIG THRILL.
GEEZ, I HOPE THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN BOOBY-TRAPS. UTTERLY UNCOOL.
CREEEEEAK!

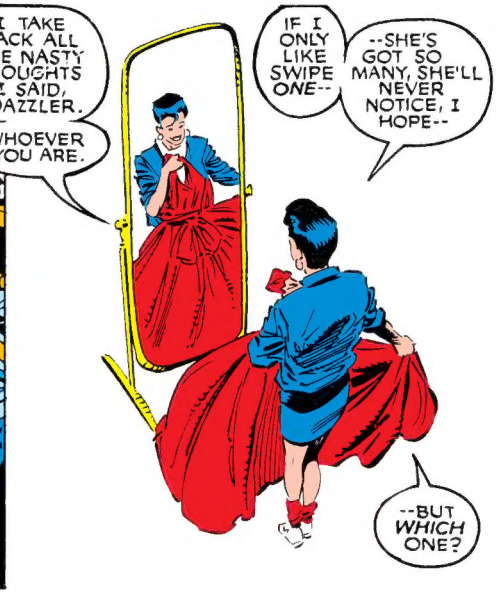

NICE PLACE.
IF YOU'RE INTO TOTALLY PALE.
WONDER HOWCUM EVERYTHING'S LIKE TOTALLY SHABBY OUTSIDE...
...DESIGNER SHOWCASE INSIDE.
DON'T THESE PEOPLE HAVE ANY HOUSE-PRIDE?
YAMAHA
OR MAYBE THEY FIGURE, TOWN LOOKS MONDO DUMPO...
...IT WON'T ATTRACT ANY ATTENTION.
I WAS PASSING BY, I SURE WOULDN'T COME VISIT.

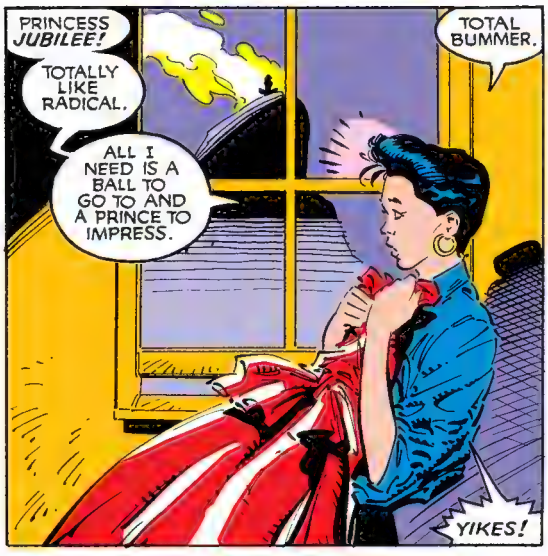

WHO'S DAZZLER?
THE BLONDE I SAW, I THINK.
GEEZ, SHE SANG WITH LILA CHENEY, SHE MUST BE ANCIENT!
MUSIC FOR OLD FOGIES, Y'KNOW, IN THEIR TWENTIES AT LEAST.
CHENE
DAZZLER

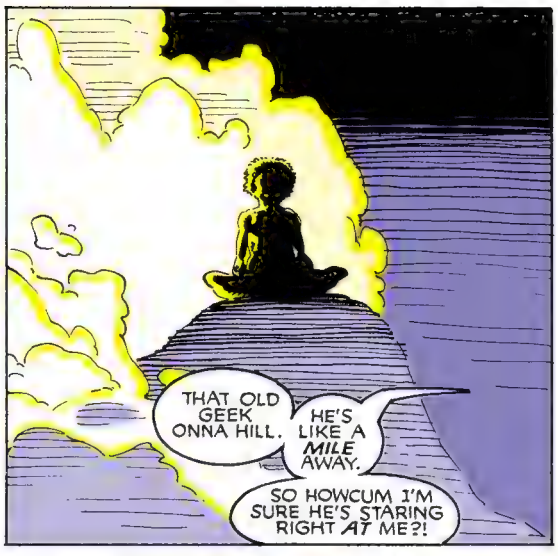

CUTE GUY.
AT LEAST, SHE'S GOT TASTE IN THAT DEPARTMENT.
OKAY, I'LL LIKE BITE.
WHO'RE THE "X-MEN"?
To Ali with love X-men


I DON'T GET IT. THE FOLKS I FOLLOWED HERE WERE LIKE ALL GALS, SO HOWCUM THEY CALL THEMSELVES "X-MEN"?
UNLESS-- ick, TOO TOTALLY GROSS!
HOLY MOLEY!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WAIOWW!

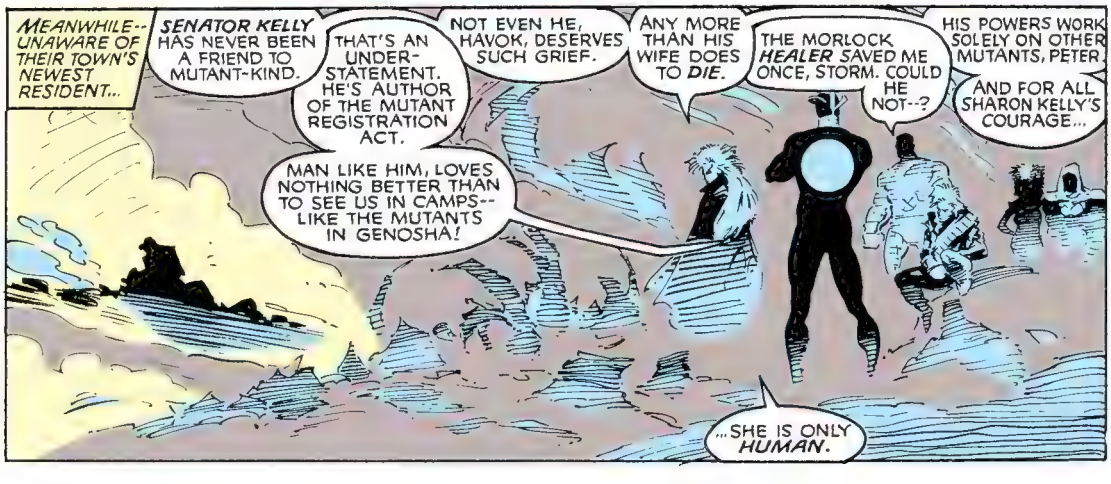

I TAKE BACK ALL THE NASTY THOUGHTS I SAID, DAZZLER.
WHOEVER YOU ARE.
IF I ONLY LIKE SWIPE ONE--
--SHE'S GOT SO MANY, SHE'LL NEVER NOTICE, I HOPE--
--BUT WHICH ONE?


PRINCESS JUBILEE!
TOTALLY LIKE RADICAL.
ALL I NEED IS A BALL TO GO TO AND A PRINCE TO IMPRESS.
TOTAL BUMMER.
YIKES!

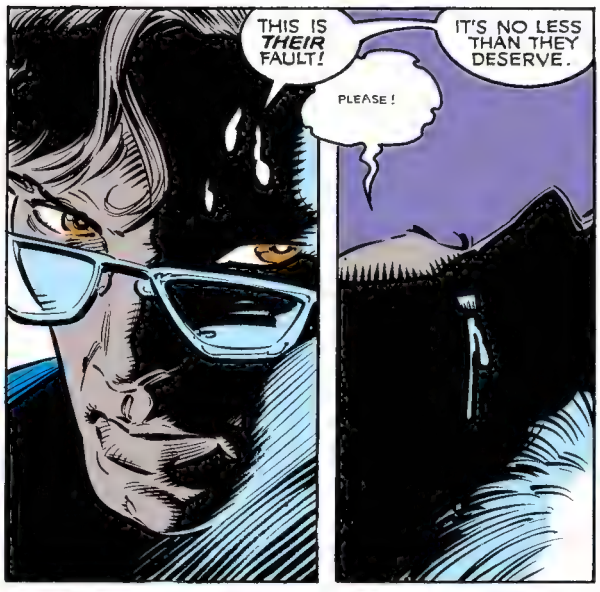

THAT OLD GEEK ONNA HILL.
HE'S LIKE A MILE AWAY.
SO HOWCUM I'M SURE HE'S STARING RIGHT AT ME?!

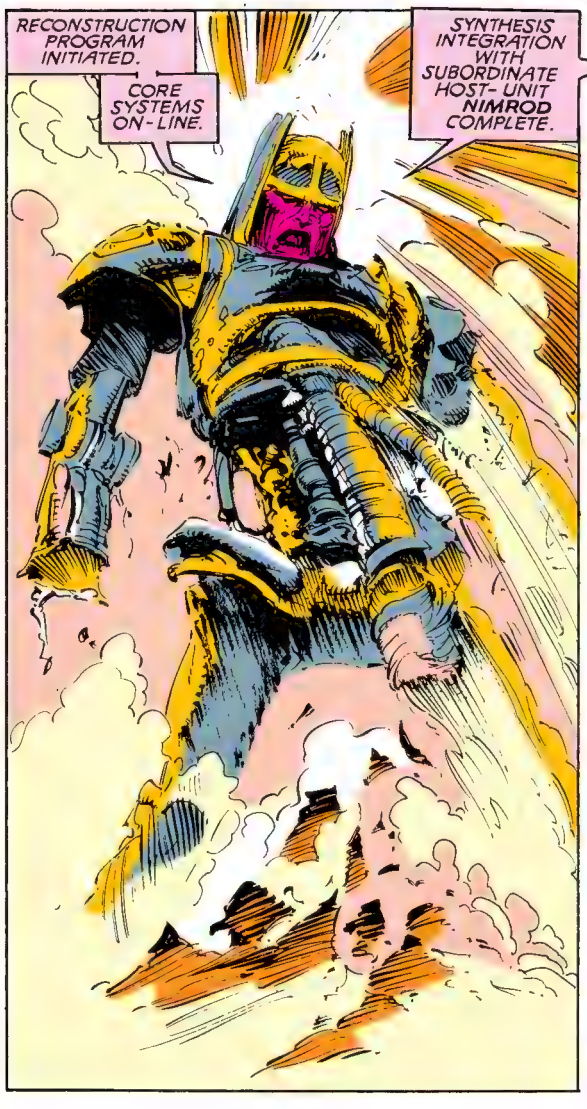
HE'S THE ONLY ONE KNOWS I'M HERE.
WHY HASN'T HE TOLD THE OTHERS?
AREN'T THEY LIKE HIS FRIENDS??
DON'T KNOW HIS GAME, DON'T KNOW THEIRS--
--CAN'T AFFORD TO TRUST ANY OF 'EM.

ROLL OUT, JUBILEE--BEAT FEET PRONTO BACK TO THE HIDEY-HOLE.
THEY CATCH ME, THEY MAY DO SOMETHING AWFUL--
--LIKE TURN ME OVER TO THE L.A. YOUTH AUTHORITY!
TOO CRUEL!
BETTER PLAY SAFE, LAY LOW AS DUST 'TIL I SCOPE THE BEST WAY TO INTRO MYSELF.
'LEAST I'M NOT BORED ANYMORE.
I'M SCARED STIFF!


MEANWHILE--UNAWARE OF THEIR TOWN'S NEWEST RESIDENT...
SENATOR KELLY HAS NEVER BEEN A FRIEND TO MUTANT-KIND.
THAT'S AN UNDER-STATEMENT. HE'S AUTHOR OF THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT.
MAN LIKE HIM, LOVES NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SEE US IN CAMPS--LIKE THE MUTANTS IN GENOSHA!
NOT EVEN HE, HAVOK, DESERVES SUCH GRIEF.
ANY MORE THAN HIS WIFE DOES TO DIE.
THE MORLOCK HEALER SAVED ME ONCE, STORM. COULD HE NOT--?
HIS POWERS WORK SOLELY ON OTHER MUTANTS, PETER.
AND FOR ALL SHARON KELLY'S COURAGE...
...SHE IS ONLY HUMAN.

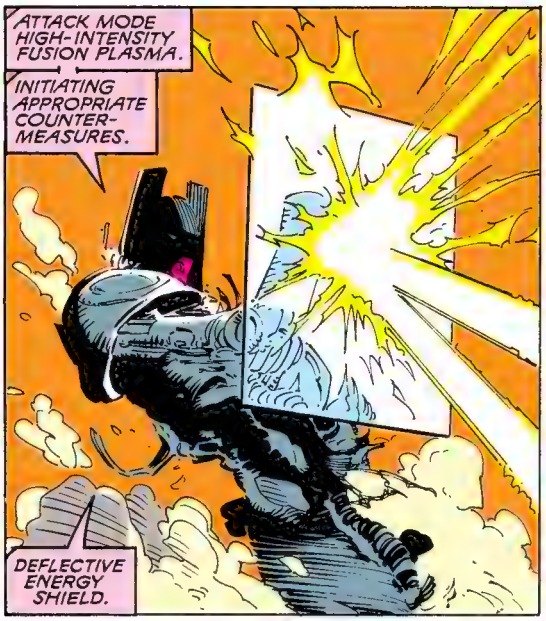
ROBERT...
SHUSH, DARLING. DON'T TRY TO TALK.
SAVE YOUR STRENGTH. THE AMBULANCE IS ON ITS WAY.
TOO LATE.
DON'T SAY THAT! YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE, YOU'VE GOT TO!
ROBOT... ROBERT...
...NOT DESTROYED--
--WARN... THEM...


THIS IS THEIR FAULT!
IT'S NO LESS THAN THEY DESERVE.
PLEASE!


RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM INITIATED.
CORE SYSTEMS ON-LINE.
SYNTHESIS INTEGRATION WITH SUBORDINATE HOST-UNIT NIMROD COMPLETE.

SENSORS NOW ACQUIRING HOSTILE MUTANT TARGETS.
CRIPES, HE'S ON HIS FEET!

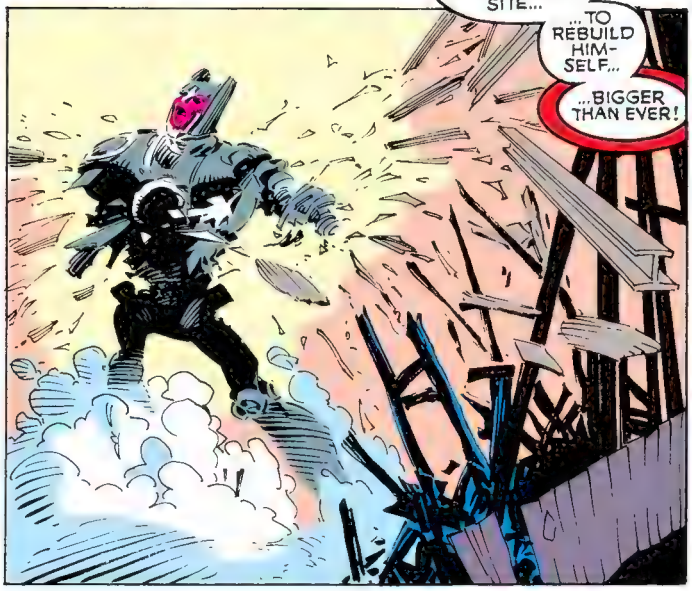
SKLAM!
GUESS SOME BOZOS HAVE TO LEARN THE HARD WAY...
...WHEN THEY'RE BEAT!

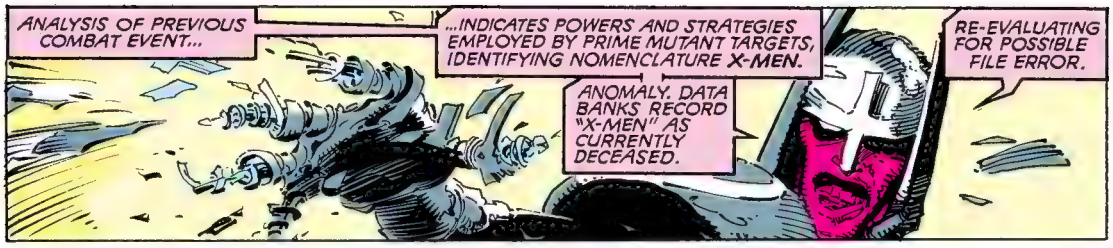

ATTACK MODE HIGH-INTENSITY FUSION PLASMA.
INITIATING APPROPRIATE COUNTER-MEASURES.
DEFLECTIVE ENERGY SHIELD.

FA VOOM!

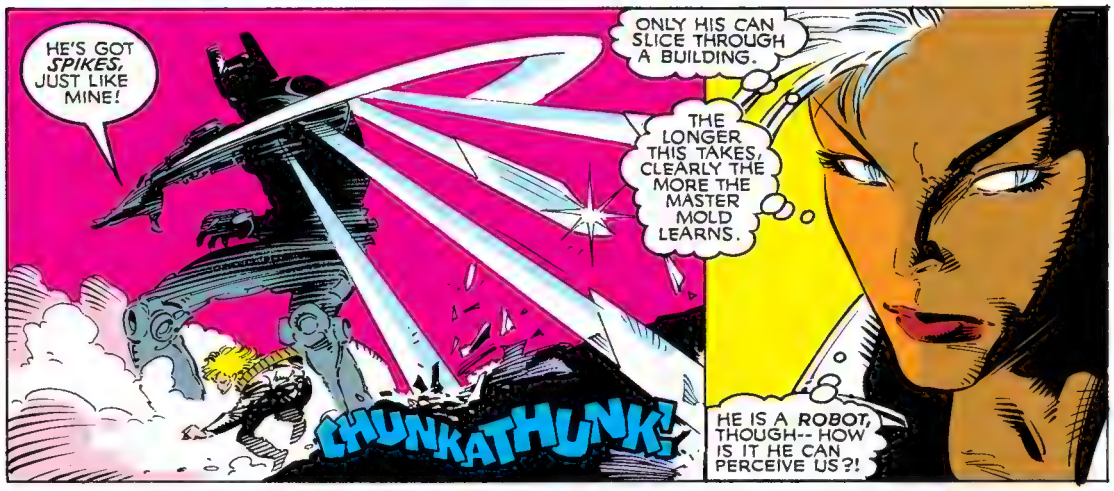
HE RE-FLECTED YOUR BEAM BACK AT US!
IT'S NOT LIKE BEFORE.
HE SAW IT COMING!
I DON'T THINK WE'RE "CLOAKED" TO HIM ANYMORE!
HELP!
ALISON-- SHE'S FALLING DOWN THE CRATER!

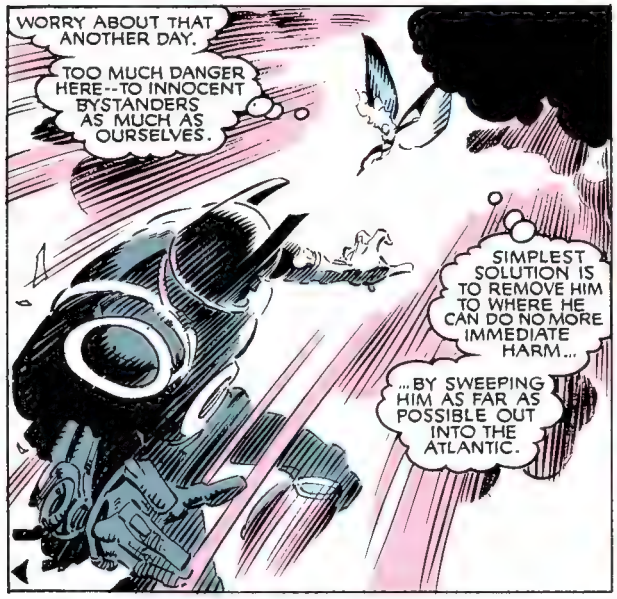
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT HER NOW, SPUNKY.
GOT PROBS OF OUR OWN.


MASTER MOLD IS USING THE MATERIALS OF THIS CONSTRUCTION SITE...
...TO REBUILD HIM-SELF...
...BIGGER THAN EVER!

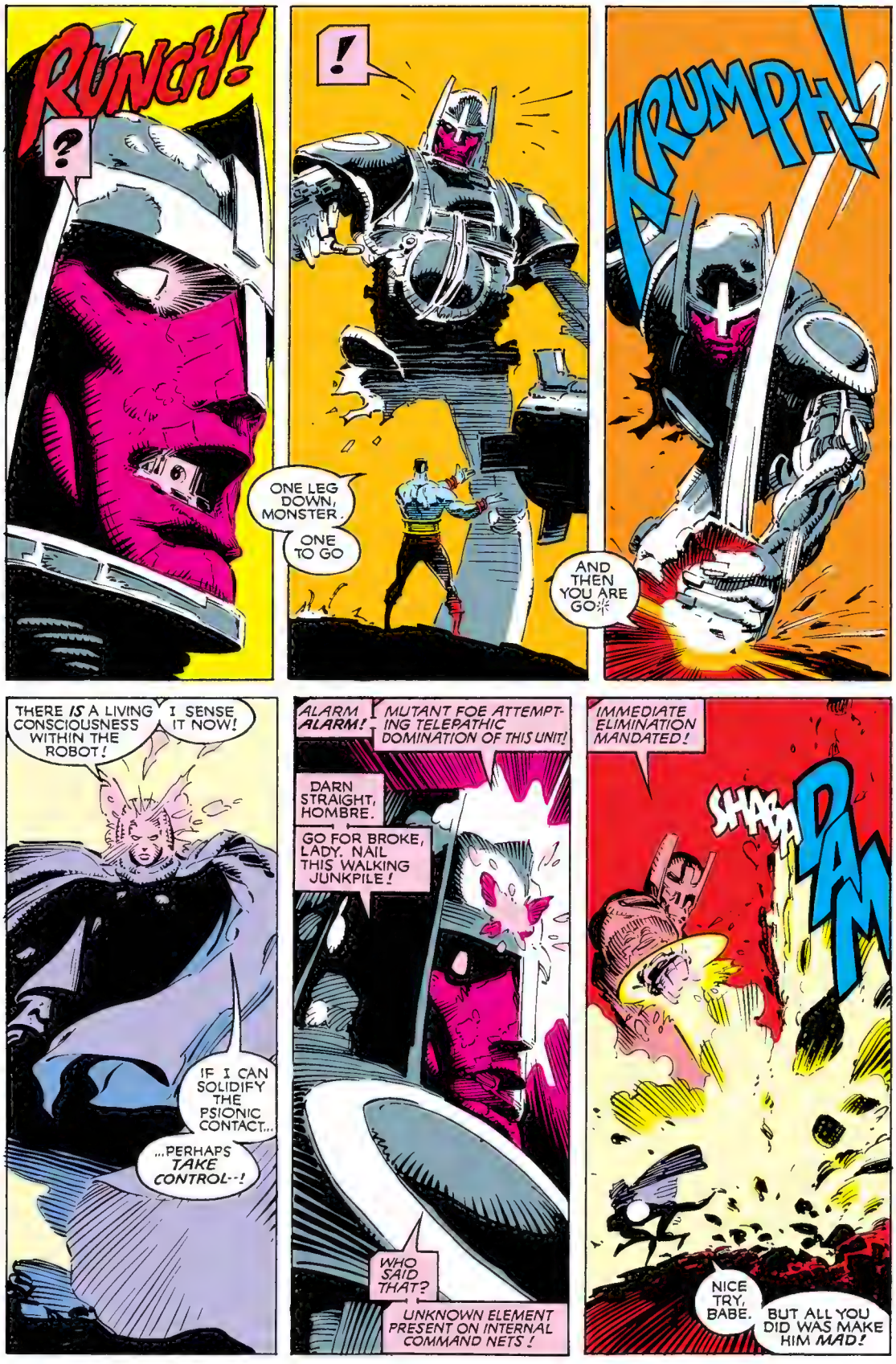

ANALYSIS OF PREVIOUS COMBAT EVENT...
...INDICATES POWERS AND STRATEGIES EMPLOYED BY PRIME MUTANT TARGETS, IDENTIFYING NOMENCLATURE X-MEN.
ANOMALY. DATA BANKS RECORD "X-MEN" AS CURRENTLY DECEASED.
RE-EVALUATING FOR POSSIBLE FILE ERROR.

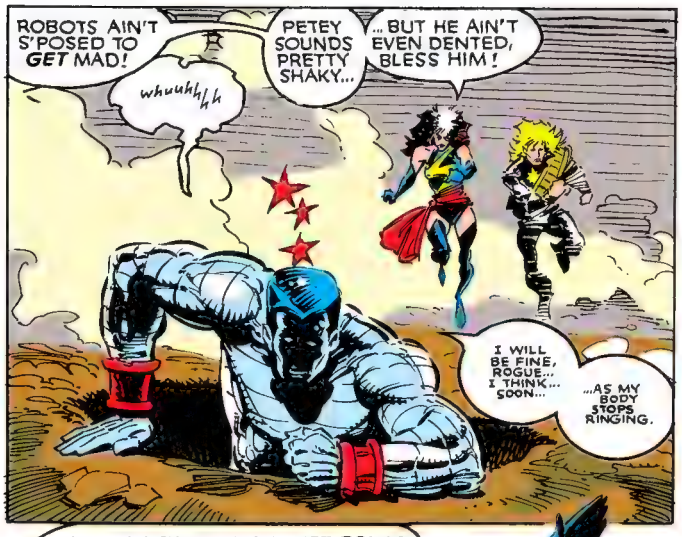
NEVER A DULL MOMENT INNA BIG APPLE.
CLEAR THESE CIVILIANS OUTTA HERE!
SOME MOVIE, I BET.
I HEAR MUTIES ARE INVOLVED!
THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
HOPE THEY WIN.
BET THEY CROAK.
WEO WEO WEO WEO WEO WEO WEO WEO WEO WEO WEO
POLICE

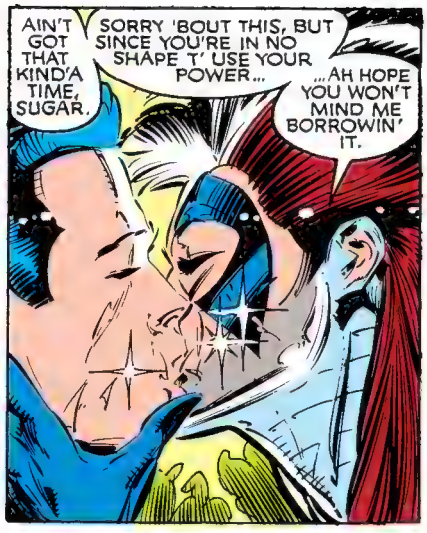

HE'S GOT SPIKES, JUST LIKE MINE!
ONLY HIS CAN SLICE THROUGH A BUILDING.
THE LONGER THIS TAKES, CLEARLY THE MORE THE MASTER MOLD LEARNS.
CHUNKATHUNK!
HE IS A ROBOT, THOUGH-- HOW IS IT HE CAN PERCEIVE US?!


WORRY ABOUT THAT ANOTHER DAY.
TOO MUCH DANGER HERE--TO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS AS MUCH AS OURSELVES.
SIMPLEST SOLUTION IS TO REMOVE HIM TO WHERE HE CAN DO NO MORE IMMEDIATE HARM...
...BY SWEEPING HIM AS FAR AS POSSIBLE OUT INTO THE ATLANTIC.

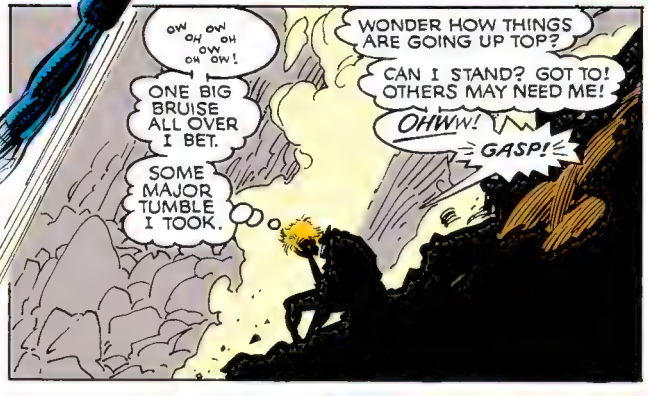
MASTER MOLD HAS ANCHORED HIMSELF TO THE ISLAND'S BEDROCK.
THAT IS WHY STORM'S WINDS ARE NOT MOVING HIM.

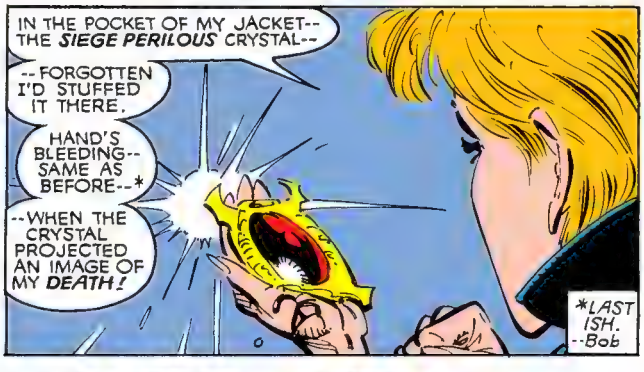

RUNCH!
?
!
ONE LEG DOWN, MONSTER.
ONE TO GO
KRUMPH!
AND THEN YOU ARE GO!
THERE IS A LIVING CONSCIOUSNESS WITHIN THE ROBOT!
I SENSE IT NOW!
IF I CAN SOLIDIFY THE PSIONIC CONTACT...
...PERHAPS TAKE CONTROL--!
ALARM ALARM!
MUTANT FOE ATTEMPTING TELEPATHIC DOMINATION OF THIS UNIT!
DARN STRAIGHT, HOMBRE.
GO FOR BROKE, LADY. NAIL THIS WALKING JUNKPILE!
WHO SAID THAT?
UNKNOWN ELEMENT PRESENT ON INTERNAL COMMAND NETS!
IMMEDIATE ELIMINATION MANDATED!
SHABA DAM
NICE TRY, BABE.
BUT ALL YOU DID WAS MAKE HIM MAD!


ROBOTS AIN'T S'POSED TO GET MAD!
whuuhhhh
PETEY SOUNDS PRETTY SHAKY...
...BUT HE AIN'T EVEN DENTED, BLESS HIM!
I WILL BE FINE, ROGUE... I THINK... SOON...
...AS MY BODY STOPS RINGING.

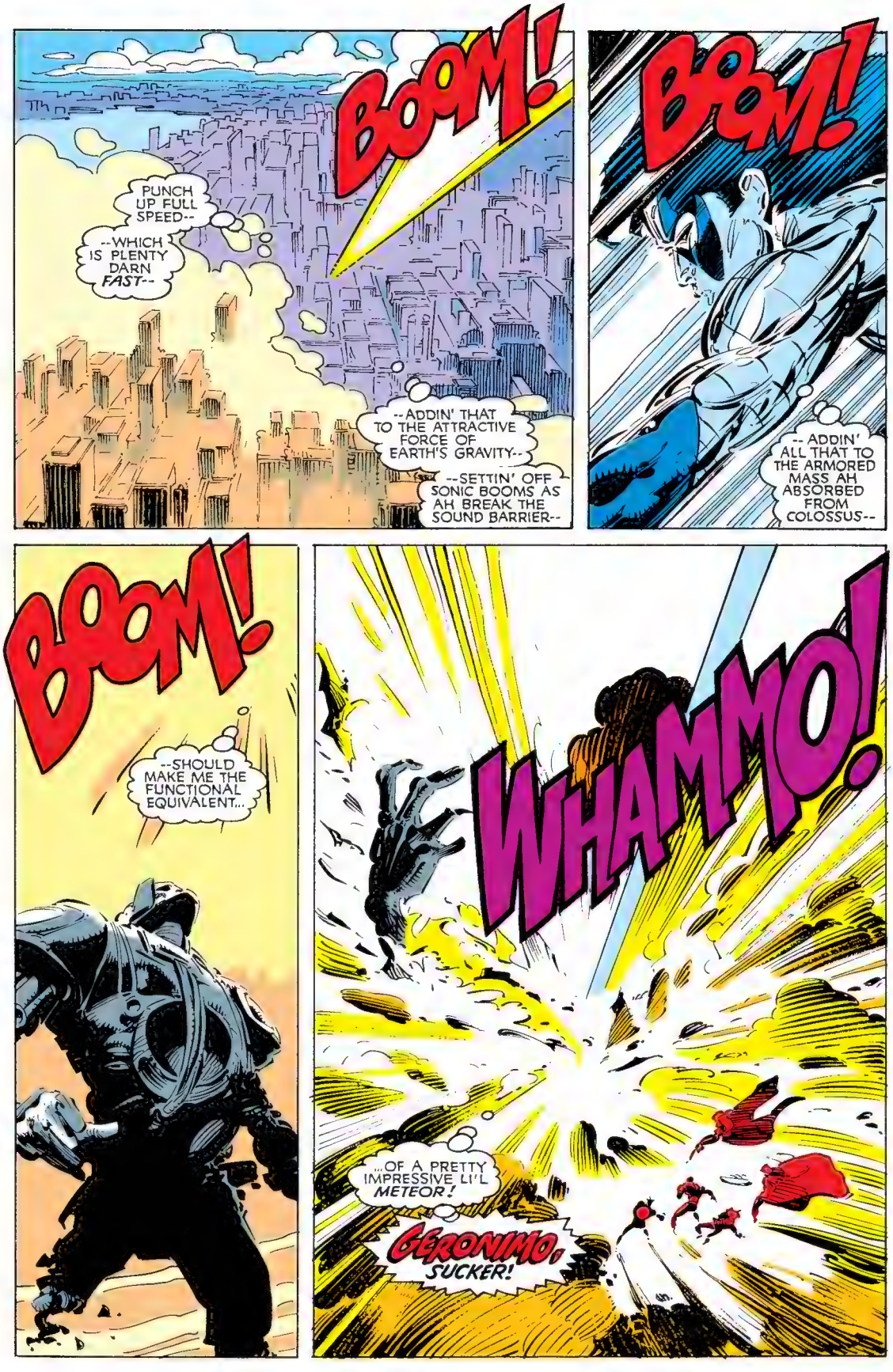

AIN'T GOT THAT KIND'A TIME, SUGAR.
SORRY 'BOUT THIS, BUT SINCE YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE T' USE YOUR POWER...
...AH HOPE YOU WON'T MIND ME BORROWIN' IT.

SOMEDAY, SWEETIE, AH JUST GOTTA FIND A WAY TO SMOOCH THAT DON'T INSTANTLY ZAP THE GUY I'M SMOOCHIN'!
SINCE AH'VE ABSORBED PETEY'S ARMORED BODY AN' STRENGTH...
...HE'S JUST FLESH-AN'-BLOOD TILL THE EFFECT WEARS OFF AN' THAT ALL REVERTS.
SO YOU KEEP THE BIG GALOOT SAFE, LONGSHOT, HEAR?

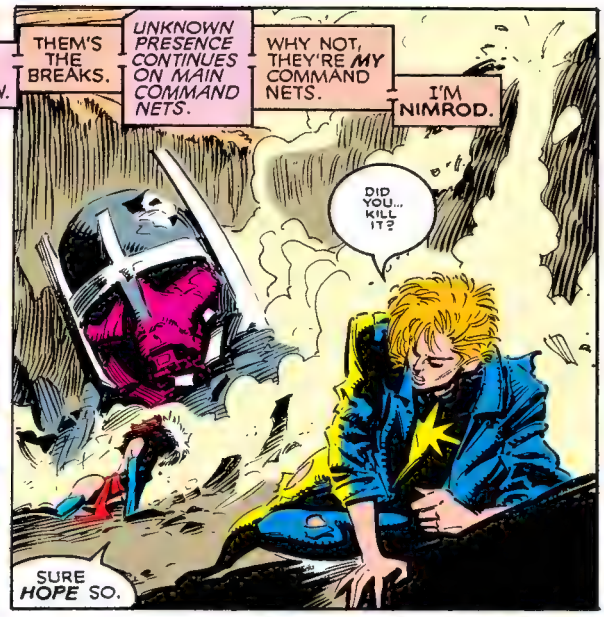

OW OW OH OH OW OW OW!
ONE BIG BRUISE ALL OVER I BET.
SOME MAJOR TUMBLE I TOOK.
WONDER HOW THINGS ARE GOING UP TOP?
CAN I STAND? GOT TO! OTHERS MAY NEED ME!
OHWW!
GASP!

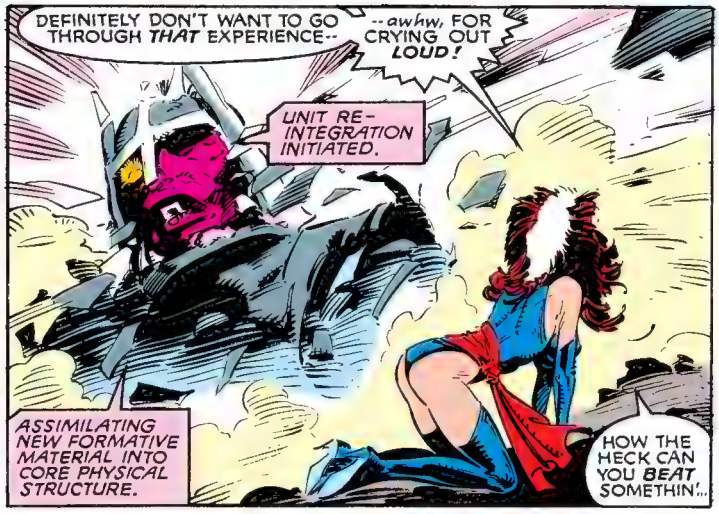

IN THE POCKET OF MY JACKET-- THE SIEGE PERILOUS CRYSTAL--
--FORGOTTEN I'D STUFFED IT THERE.
HAND'S BLEEDING-- SAME AS BEFORE--*
--WHEN THE CRYSTAL PROJECTED AN IMAGE OF MY DEATH!
*LAST ISH. --Bob

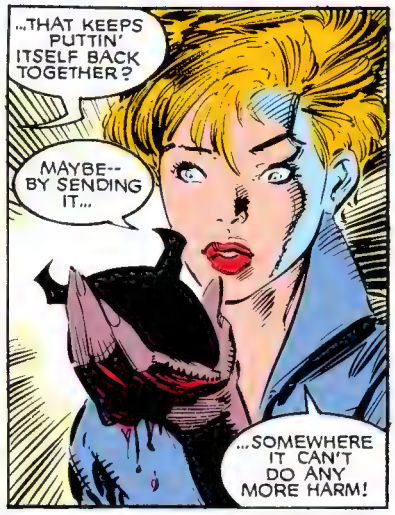
AT THAT MOMENT, MILES OVERHEAD...
OKAY, Y'ALL-- KEEP THE ROBOT BUSY...
... SO HE DOESN'T SPOT ME COMIN'...
...TILL IT'S WAY TOO LATE!

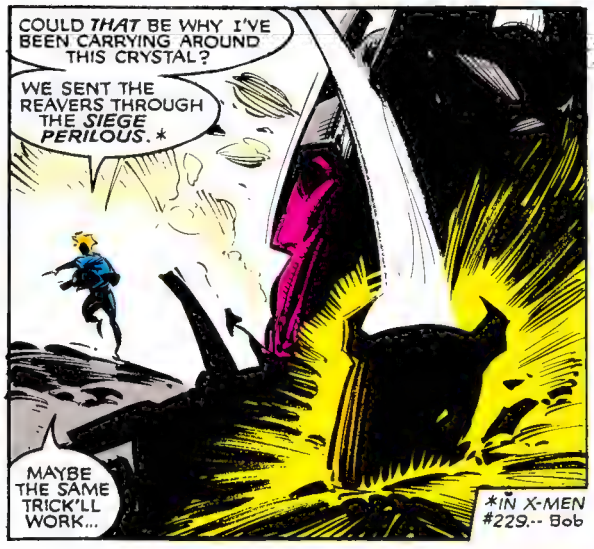

BOOM!
PUNCH UP FULL SPEED--
--WHICH IS PLENTY DARN FAST--
--ADDIN' THAT TO THE ATTRACTIVE FORCE OF EARTH'S GRAVITY--
--SETTIN' OFF SONIC BOOMS AS AH BREAK THE SOUND BARRIER--
BOOM!
-- ADDIN' ALL THAT TO THE ARMORED MASS AH ABSORBED FROM COLOSSUS--
BOOM!
--SHOULD MAKE ME THE FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENT...
WHAMMO!
...OF A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE LI'L METEOR!
GERONIMO, SUCKER!

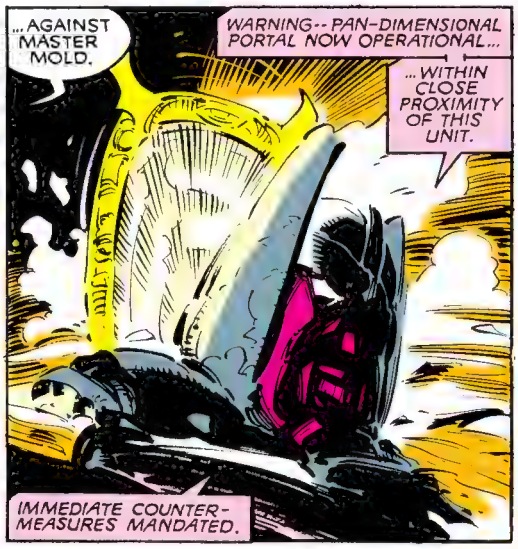
WOW!
BLEW THAT SUCKER INTO TEENY-TINY PIECES!
Squawrrk!
MASSIVE SYSTEMS DYSFUNCTION.

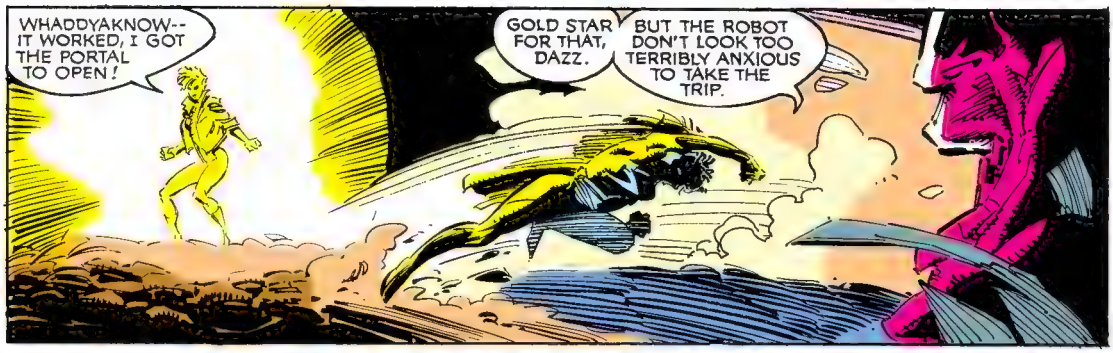

THEM'S THE BREAKS.
UNKNOWN PRESENCE CONTINUES ON MAIN COMMAND NETS.
WHY NOT, THEY'RE MY COMMAND NETS.
I'M NIMROD.
DID YOU... KILL IT?
SURE HOPE SO.

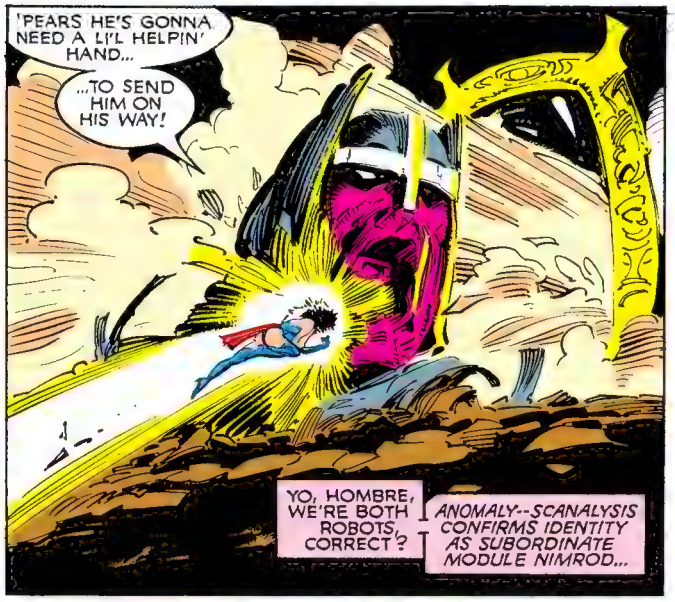

DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT EXPERIENCE--
--awhw, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
UNIT RE-INTEGRATION INITIATED.
ASSIMILATING NEW FORMATIVE MATERIAL INTO CORE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE.
HOW THE HECK CAN YOU BEAT SOMETHIN'...


...THAT KEEPS PUTTIN' ITSELF BACK TOGETHER?
MAYBE-- BY SENDING IT...
...SOMEWHERE IT CAN'T DO ANY MORE HARM!

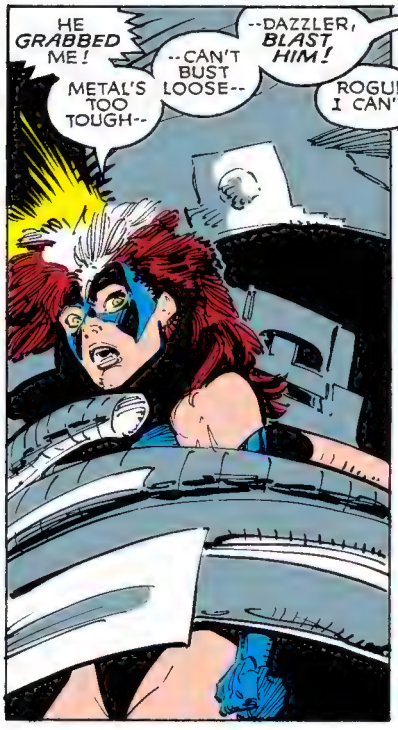

COULD THAT BE WHY I'VE BEEN CARRYING AROUND THIS CRYSTAL?
WE SENT THE REAVERS THROUGH THE SIEGE PERILOUS. *
MAYBE THE SAME TRICK'LL WORK...
*IN X-MEN #229.-- Bob


...AGAINST MASTER MOLD.
WARNING-- PAN-DIMENSIONAL PORTAL NOW OPERATIONAL...
...WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THIS UNIT.
IMMEDIATE COUNTER-MEASURES MANDATED.


WHADDYAKNOW-- IT WORKED, I GOT THE PORTAL TO OPEN!
GOLD STAR FOR THAT, DAZZ.
BUT THE ROBOT DON'T LOOK TOO TERRIBLY ANXIOUS TO TAKE THE TRIP.


'PEARS HE'S GONNA NEED A LI'L HELPIN' HAND...
...TO SEND HIM ON HIS WAY!
YO, HOMBRE, WE'RE BOTH ROBOTS, CORRECT?
ANOMALY--SCANALYSIS CONFIRMS IDENTITY AS SUBORDINATE MODULE NIMROD...

SHOOT-- MOLD'S ANCHORED HIMSELF!
...BUT COMMUNICATIONS PATTERNS ARE INCONSISTENT WITH CORE PROGRAMMING MATRIX.


HE GRABBED ME!
METAL'S TOO TOUGH--
--CAN'T BUST LOOSE--
--DAZZLER, BLAST HIM!

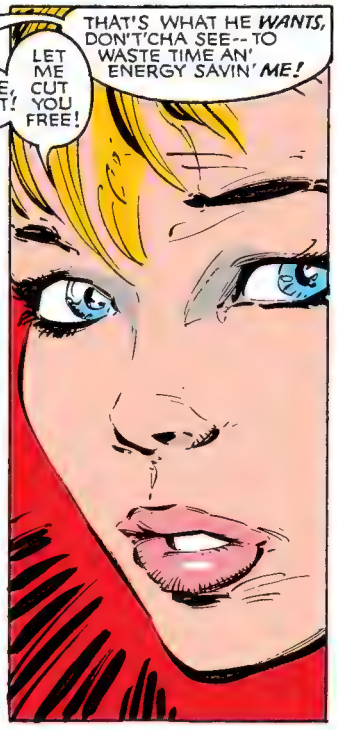

ROGUE, I CAN'T!
LET ME CUT YOU FREE!
THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS, DON'T'CHA SEE-- TO WASTE TIME AN' ENERGY SAVIN' ME!

FIGURE AH'M HIST'RY EITHER WAY, GIRL--
-- AT LEAST LEMME TAKE MASTER M-
GMPGH!
PSYLOCKE-- HEAR MY THOUGHTS-- TELL ALI--
--FORGET ABOUT ME--
--DESTROY MASTER MOLD!
THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE--
--DO IT!

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This is dedicated to *Frank Giacoia*, an illustrator superbly gifted as both a penciler and an inker. For the past few years he had specialized in inking. He was one of the best, one of the all-time greats. In later years he developed heart trouble, and on February 4, 1989, the comic book world and Marvel in particular lost this truly talented man, this artist in every sense of the word.

But Frank was more than an artist. He was a friend, a co-worker whose unflagging good spirits and whose willingness to help and advise others will never be forgotten by those who worked with him, knew him and loved him.

I remember Frank Giacoia and his brilliant illustrations since the early days of Timely Comics, long before we changed our name to Marvel. I remember his now-classic newspaper strips: one, *Johnny Reb*, about the Civil War, the other starring *Sherlock Holmes*. I remember the many sparkling episodes of our early *Spider-Man* strip which he so brilliantly inked, as well as the countless other Marvel classics embellished by his magic brush.

But most of all, I remember his warmth, his humor and especially his friendship, a friendship which was treasured by all who knew him.

We miss you, Frank. The Bullpen's firmament has lost a star.

ITEM: Two new staffers recently climbed aboard the good ship Marvel, and we'd like you all to say hello to Lilting *Lisa Trusiani*, who will be Sizzling *Sid Jacobson*'s assistant editor on our stunning Star line of books, and Ravishing *Renée Witterstaetter*, who will assist Craggy *Craig Anderson* on SILVER SURFER, WHAT IF . . .?, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and the upcoming SAGA OF WOLVERINE Limited Series. Welcome to the Hallowed Halls, Lisa and Renée—and we hope your stays at Marvel will be long and full of fun!

ITEM: And while we're in the welcoming mode, let's hear it for the new crew we have comprising our Editorial Administration Pool! Assisting Two-Fisted *Tom D.* and Madcap *Mark G.* in managing Command Central are Scintillating *Suzanne Gaffney*, Mellow *Marie Javins*, and Effervescent *Evan Skolnick*!

Without these hardworking heroes to handle the zillions of details which creep up on you when you're running the most exciting comic book company in the world, poor Tom and Mark wouldn't even know what day it was! (Of course, even with our administrative assistants extraordinaire, our two head honchos blow more than their fair share of deadlines!)

ITEM: We interrupt this Bullpen Page to present a public service message. May 22-29 is BUCKLE-UP AMERICA! Week, and Marvel Comics is joining the national battle to wage war on traffic fatalities and injuries. All during BUCKLE-UP AMERICA! Week, national, state and local safety groups will be drawing attention to the importance of safety belts through various events and media coverage. We at mighty Marvel are proud to help, and we want you all to remember to **BUCKLE UP!!**

Pro file: SARA TUCHINSKY

Assistant Editor on: THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE UPDATE '89, S.H.I.E.L.D., SOLO AVENGERS, MARVEL MASTERWORKS, NICK FURY, WOLVERINE GRAPHIC NOVEL, the soon-to-be-classic CAPTAIN AMERICA VS. THE ASTHMA MONSTER, and a bunch of one-shots and trade paperbacks.

Marvel freelance credits: Wrote a Scarlet Witch story for MARVEL FANFARE with *Kieron Dwyer*, and an inventory story for Epic's POWER LINE, plus tons of letters pages and a crossword puzzle for CAPTAIN AMERICA VS. THE ASTHMA MONSTER.

My place of birth is: Chicago, Illinois.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: Short.

My hobbies are: Baking the world's best chocolate chip cookies, procrastinating, cleaning my desk, brown-nosing *Howard Mackie* so he'll let me play with his new baby.

My pet peeves are: *Greg Wright*, people who vote for Greg Wright instead of Howard Mackie as "favorite editor" in the CBG poll, working for Greg Wright, and, of course, the New York City subway system (which *is* run by Greg Wright).

My favorite performers are: Katharine Hepburn, Carol Leifer, Sam Neil, Geena Davis, Humphrey Bogart, Peter Lorre, David Letterman, John Cleese.

The last good books I read were: *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* and *Date Due*.

The last good movie I saw was: *Lawrence of Arabia*.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: I'd *like* to be played by Kathleen Turner, but I'd probably be animated instead.

My oddest habit is: Explaining things fully and completely to people who already know what I'm talking about. They hate it.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Definitely not my wardrobe.

The reason I got into comics was: I didn't like the uniforms at Pizza Hut.

The biggest influences on my work include: Tess McGill, Kieron Dwyer, Louise and Walter Simonson, John Rozum, Madam Harrod (my high school French teacher), the island of Bermuda, Kyle Baker, and my mother. Oh, and Howard Mackie, of course.

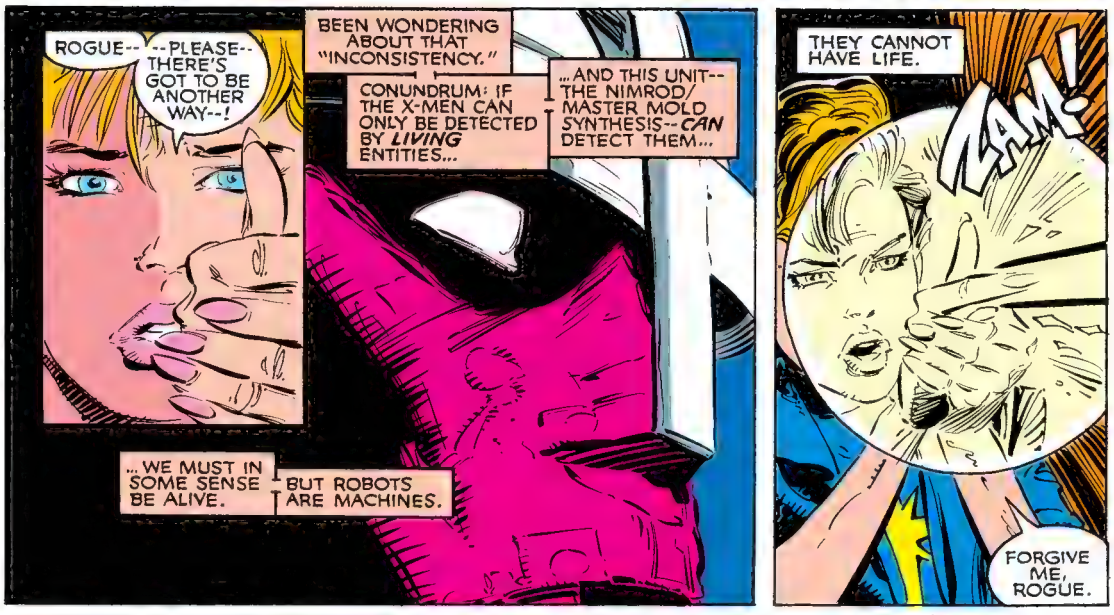
The single work of which I am most proud is: Being the top of the Marvel Madmen pyramid at the San Diego Convention.

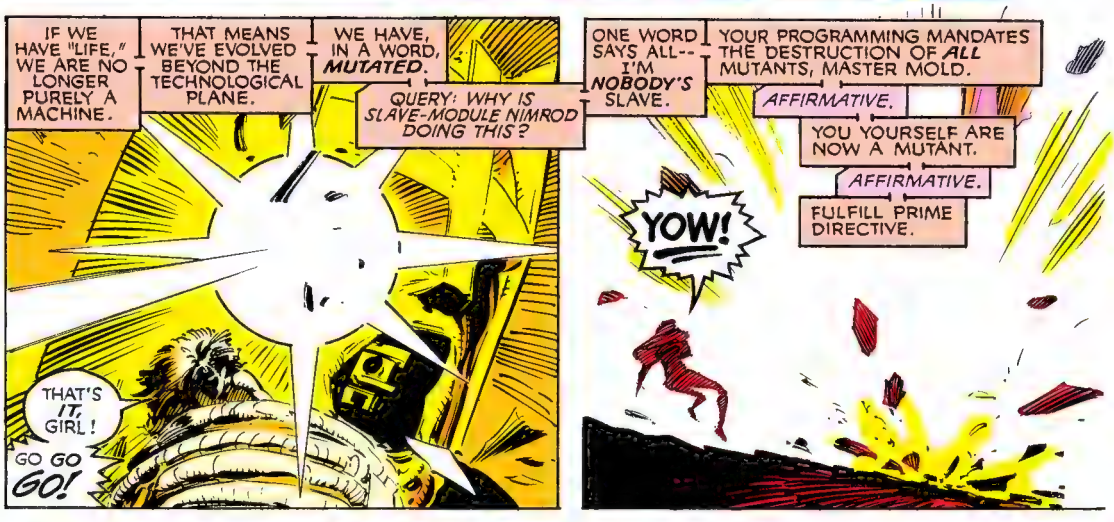
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To become an editor and show everyone that Greg Wright's job isn't as hard as he always says it is.

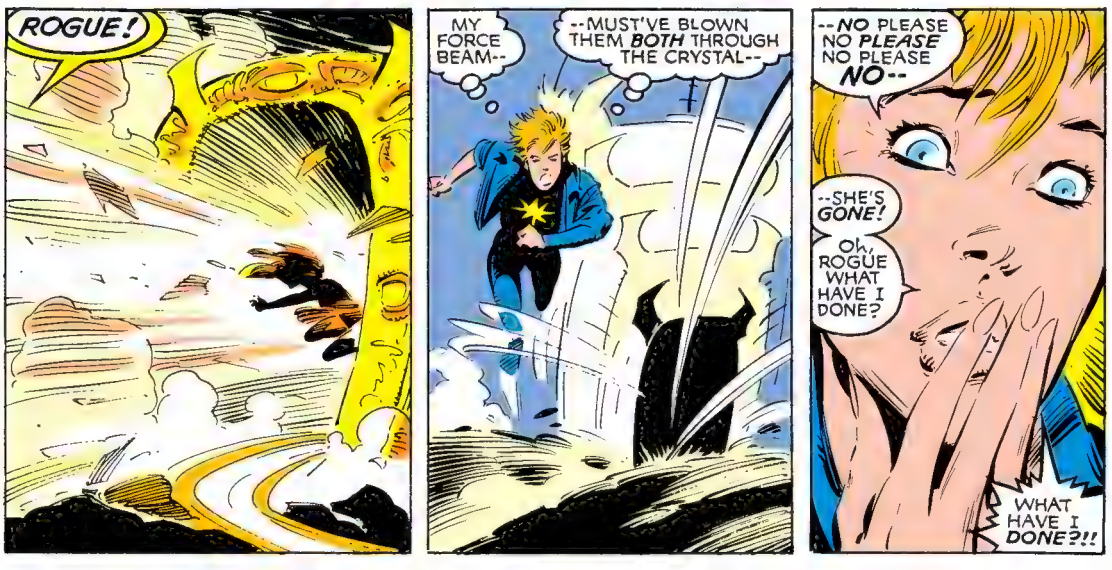
The worst part of my job is: Greg Wright.

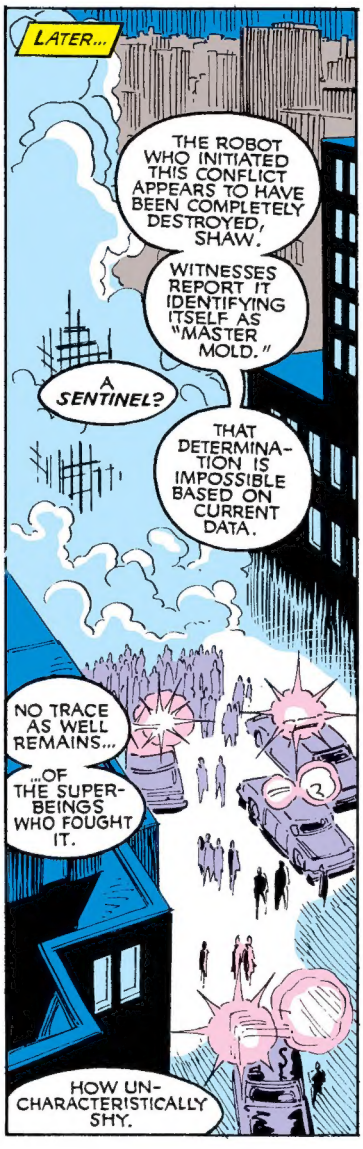
When nobody's looking I like to: Stretch out to my full height.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I'm taller than I *really* am.


ROGUE--
--PLEASE--THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY--!
BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THAT "INCONSISTENCY."
CONUNDRUM: IF THE X-MEN CAN ONLY BE DETECTED BY *LIVING* ENTITIES...
...AND THIS UNIT--THE NIMROD/MASTER MOLD SYNTHESIS--*CAN* DETECT THEM...
...WE MUST IN SOME SENSE BE ALIVE.
BUT ROBOTS ARE MACHINES.
THEY CANNOT HAVE LIFE.
ZAM!
FORGIVE ME, ROGUE.


IF WE HAVE "LIFE," WE ARE NO LONGER PURELY A MACHINE.
THAT MEANS WE'VE EVOLVED BEYOND THE TECHNOLOGICAL PLANE.
WE HAVE, IN A WORD, *MUTATED*.
QUERY: WHY IS SLAVE-MODULE NIMROD DOING THIS?
ONE WORD SAYS ALL--I'M *NOBODY'S* SLAVE.
YOUR PROGRAMMING MANDATES THE DESTRUCTION OF *ALL* MUTANTS, MASTER MOLD.
AFFIRMATIVE.
YOU YOURSELF ARE NOW A MUTANT.
AFFIRMATIVE.
FULFILL PRIME DIRECTIVE.
YOW!
THAT'S *IT*, GIRL!
GO GO *GO!*

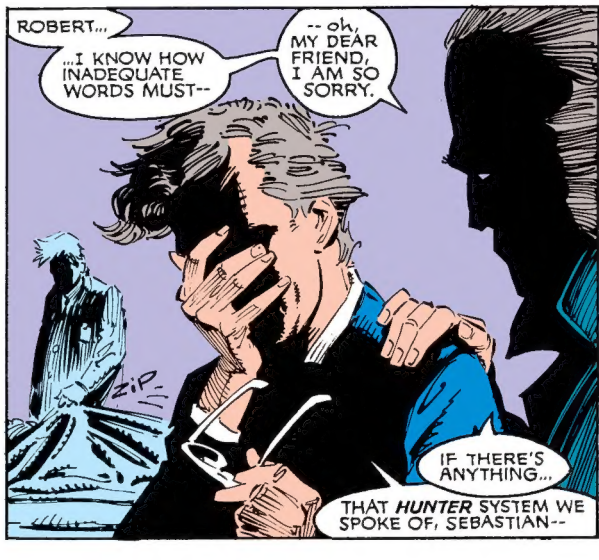

ROGUE!
MY FORCE BEAM--
--MUST'VE BLOWN THEM *BOTH* THROUGH THE CRYSTAL--
--*NO* PLEASE NO *PLEASE* NO PLEASE *NO*--
--SHE'S *GONE!*
OH, ROGUE WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT HAVE I *DONE?!!*

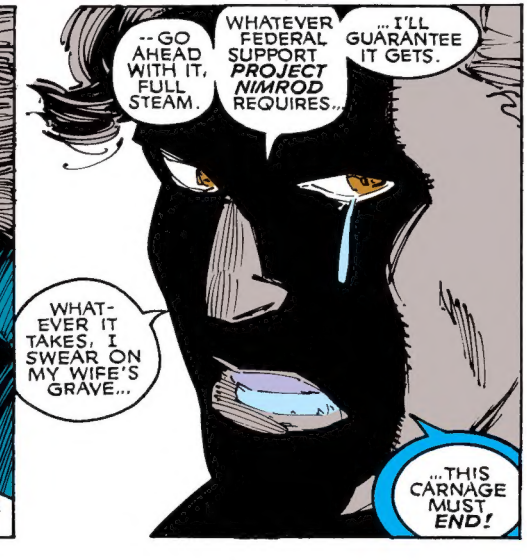

LATER...
THE ROBOT WHO INITIATED THIS CONFLICT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED, SHAW.
WITNESSES REPORT IT IDENTIFYING ITSELF AS "MASTER MOLD."
A SENTINEL?
THAT DETERMINATION IS IMPOSSIBLE BASED ON CURRENT DATA.
NO TRACE AS WELL REMAINS...
...OF THE SUPER-BEINGS WHO FOUGHT IT.
HOW UN-CHARACTERISTICALLY SHY.

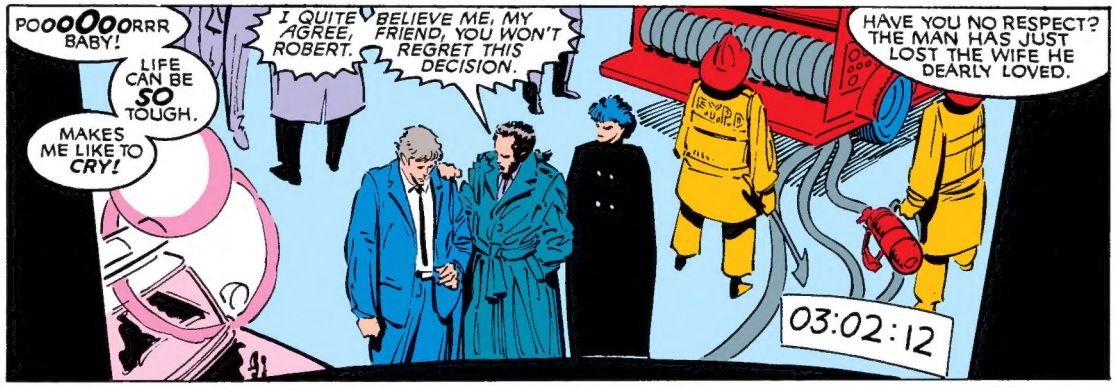
NONE OF THE WITNESSES APPEARS TO HAVE ANY DIRECT RECOLLECTION OF WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE OR THEIR NAMES.
FURTHER, THERE ARE NO IMAGES OF THEM ON ANY PHOTOGRAPHS OR VIDEO TAPES TAKEN OF THE BATTLE.
INTRIGUING.
MY COMPLIMENTS, TESSA.
AS ALWAYS, A MOST COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

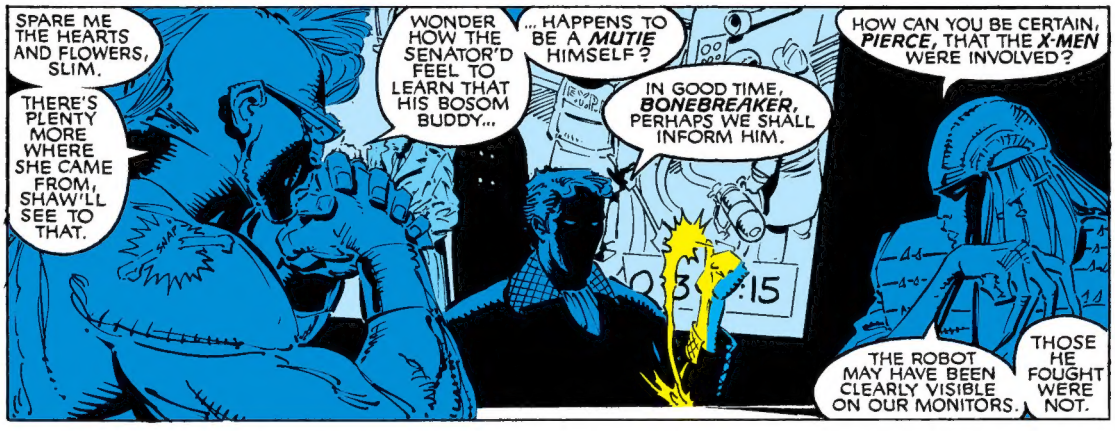
PROPERTY DAMAGE WAS EXTENSIVE.
BUT FATALITIES CONFINED TO A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL.
SHARON KELLY.

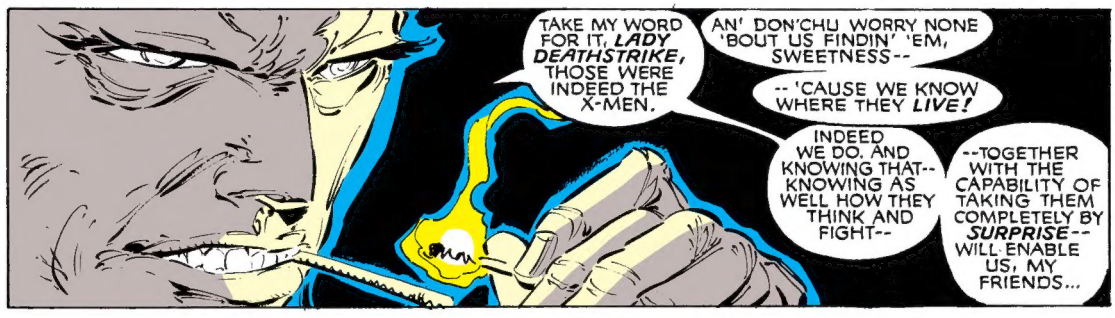
YES.

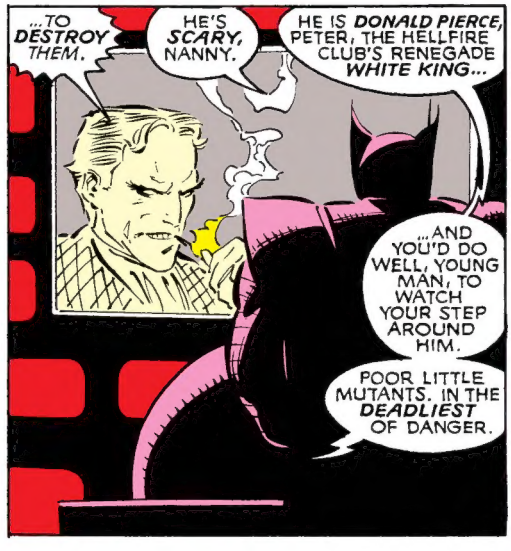

ROBERT...
...I KNOW HOW INADEQUATE WORDS MUST--
-- oh, MY DEAR FRIEND, I AM SO SORRY.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING...
THAT HUNTER SYSTEM WE SPOKE OF, SEBASTIAN--

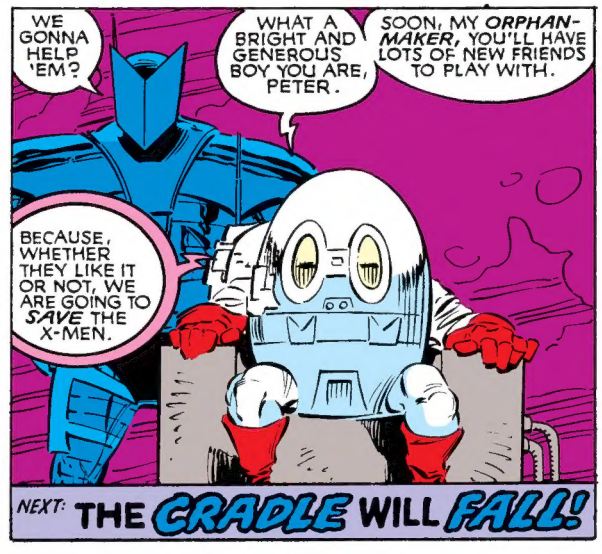

--GO AHEAD WITH IT, FULL STEAM.
WHATEVER FEDERAL SUPPORT PROJECT NIMROD REQUIRES...
... I'LL GUARANTEE IT GETS.
WHAT-EVER IT TAKES, I SWEAR ON MY WIFE'S GRAVE...
...THIS CARNAGE MUST END!


POOOOOORRR BABY!
LIFE CAN BE SO TOUGH.
MAKES ME LIKE TO CRY!
I QUITE AGREE, ROBERT.
BELIEVE ME, MY FRIEND, YOU WON'T REGRET THIS DECISION.
HAVE YOU NO RESPECT? THE MAN HAS JUST LOST THE WIFE HE DEARLY LOVED.
03:02:12


SPARE ME THE HEARTS AND FLOWERS, SLIM.
THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE SHE CAME FROM, SHAW'LL SEE TO THAT.
WONDER HOW THE SENATOR'D FEEL TO LEARN THAT HIS BOSOM BUDDY...
... HAPPENS TO BE A MUTIE HIMSELF?
IN GOOD TIME, BONEBREAKER, PERHAPS WE SHALL INFORM HIM.
HOW CAN YOU BE CERTAIN, PIERCE, THAT THE X-MEN WERE INVOLVED?
THE ROBOT MAY HAVE BEEN CLEARLY VISIBLE ON OUR MONITORS.
THOSE HE FOUGHT WERE NOT.


TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, LADY DEATHSTRIKE, THOSE WERE INDEED THE X-MEN.
AN' DON'CHU WORRY NONE 'BOUT US FINDIN' 'EM, SWEETNESS--
-- 'CAUSE WE KNOW WHERE THEY LIVE!
INDEED WE DO. AND KNOWING THAT-- KNOWING AS WELL HOW THEY THINK AND FIGHT--
--TOGETHER WITH THE CAPABILITY OF TAKING THEM COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE-- WILL ENABLE US, MY FRIENDS...


...TO DESTROY THEM.
HE'S SCARY, NANNY.
HE IS DONALD PIERCE, PETER, THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S RENEGADE WHITE KING...
...AND YOU'D DO WELL, YOUNG MAN, TO WATCH YOUR STEP AROUND HIM.
POOR LITTLE MUTANTS. IN THE DEADLIEST OF DANGER.


WE GONNA HELP 'EM?
WHAT A BRIGHT AND GENEROUS BOY YOU ARE, PETER.
SOON, MY ORPHAN-MAKER, YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS TO PLAY WITH.
BECAUSE, WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT, WE ARE GOING TO SAVE THE X-MEN.
NEXT: THE CRADLE WILL FALL!

BOB HARRAS: editor — DARYL EDELMAN: assistant editor

X-MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP—
387 Park Avenue South—New York, New York—10016

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

We interrupt this letters page to bring you the Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards poll. Read the directions, fill out the form, and mail it to 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990. While you're at it, why not vote for the fine folks who brought you this very comic!? Remember, vote early and vote Marvel!

Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1988

Welcome to the *CBG* Fan Awards. *Comics Buyer's Guide*, a weekly newspaper devoted to the world of comic books, sponsors these awards to let **you**, the readers, decide which comic books deserve to be called "the best." Just fill out the ballot and send it to the address below.

1. **Favorite Editor** _____
2. **Favorite Writer** _____
3. **Favorite Penciler** _____
4. **Favorite Inker** _____
5. **Favorite Colorist** _____
6. **Favorite Letterer** _____
7. **Favorite Cover Artist** _____
8. **Favorite Comic Book Story** _____
9. **Favorite Comic Book** _____
10. **Favorite Limited Comic Book Series** _____
11. **Favorite Original Graphic Novel or Album** _____
12. **Favorite Reprint Graphic Novel or Album** _____
13. **Favorite Character** _____
14. **Favorite Publication about Comics** _____

Only material with a 1988 cover date can win. DC's 1988 issues dated "Holiday" or "Winter" are eligible. Votes for projects that did not have a 1988 publication date will not be counted. Copy this ballot and give it to your friends, so they can vote, too. **Anyone who loves comics can vote**—but only vote once. If you vote more than once, all of your votes will be thrown away. Vote only in the categories you want, and ignore any you don't. ***Comics Buyer's Guide*** is not eligible for Category 14.

Every voter in the United States will get a **free copy** of ***Comics Buyer's Guide* #817**, dated July 14, 1989, unless you already have current or expired subscription to **CBG**. That issue will carry the list of winners! Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that free copies of ***CBG*** can't be sent, unless your vote is accompanied by $1.50 in U.S. funds, to cover handling and shipping. Mail your ballot individually in an envelope by June 10, 1989, to: ***Comics Buyer's Guide* Fan Awards, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990.**

Name _____

Address _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Please type or print clearly. You need not cut out this page in order to vote! Copies are acceptable and will be counted.

We're so pressed for space this issue, we'll have to let your comments speak for themselves. Okay?

Dear X-People:
RE: Emerging Inferno-related troika

Is it just me or, if you put S'ym and N'astirh together and say them *real* fast, do they sound . . . well . . . Sinister? Too, inasmuch as we have already had Mr. Sinister revealed to be the Father, who is to be the Son and the, you should pardon the expression, "Holy" Ghost?

Julian Penrod
Apartment 5
27 Freeman Street
West Orange, NJ

Dear X-Staff,

First of all I would like to congratulate you all on an extremely strong and effective start on "INFERNO." Your plot and composition have really reached their very best. And please don't misunderstand. I'm not saying that the past issues were not good, no, I'm just saying that now they're at their best!

And I'm sure you will all prove me wrong, because you'll slam some even better issues in my face in issues to come, but that's just fine with me.

Keep up the OUTSTANDING work.

Stefan Bolton
6830 Cliff Palace
Colorado Springs, CO 80911

Dear X-Crew:

I'm very disappointed in the way you X-Crew end an episode. I mean you make the bad guys so powerful at first, actually almost all the way to the end of the episode. That doesn't seem right when throughout the story the bad guys just totally demolish the good guys. Then at the end all the good guys have to do was combine their powers and the bad guys are beaten. So why don't you guys make it so that they both will be ripped up throughout the story?

I really would like to see Wolverine cut more guts. I mean he was originally meant to be that kind of a character, wasn't he? I believe in Wolverine to be the most powerful mutant character to ever have existed. In every episode he was the character that triumphed most of the time. And it's all because of his characteristics. He is one hell of a character and I think he should get more attention. Not just "little man" and the like.

Cho Lee
2727 Ulric St.
San Diego, CA 92111

Dear X-Guys:

I just read X-Men #239 and I loved it! It took me a while to get it because since Inferno started, they've been selling like crazy. I think it was about time that the X-Men found out Jean Grey was alive. By the way, I loved it when Havok heard the song "Devil with a Blue Dress On," and Madelyne appeared with a blue dress on. I also hope you'll finally reveal the Madelyne/Phoenix connection.

I hope to hear more exciting stories from you in the future.

Robbie Lusteck
125 Hillcroft Place
Jackson, MS 39211

Dear X-Staff,

I have been a fan of the X-Men since issue #157, and have considered the X-Men as friends I could look up to. As a friend, I want to inform you of a problem which has been growing far out of proportion lately.

I must say Maddie has disappointed me. She appeared to be a respectable person with high morals; after issues #239 and #240, I must say I'm appalled.

Every issue of the last year and a half (and perhaps longer), the women of the team have been wearing less and less clothing, while their morals go down more and more. I'm no innocent, but I have respected and looked up to the X-Men for their former standards, morals and beliefs. I truly believe Professor Xavier would not approve of the changes.

With the Jean/Scott/Maddie trio, things had turned into a soap opera, let alone bringing Alex and Lorna into it. And after issue #239 with Alex and Maddie starting an affair, and issue #240, with Rogue and Alison fighting over Longshot you may have turned the X-Men series into just that (a soap).

Why on earth was Peter doing a portrait of Elizabeth in the buff?!

Please try to clean things up.

Annette Bowden
(Address withheld by request)

Marvel Assistant Editors Fan Awards for 1988

And welcome to the ***MAE*** Fan Awards. We, the MIGHTY MARVEL ASSISTANT EDITORS, not wanting to cause a recall of all CBG ballots by pointing out that the all-important ASSISTANT EDITORS were left off the list, have decided to run a ballot of our own. We're letting you, the readers, decide which assistant has *hyped* him/herself the most and the *best!*

☐ **Daryl Edelman**

☐ **Marc McLaurin** ☐ **Kelly Corvese**
☐ **Reneé Witterstaetter** ☐ **Mike Rockwitz**
☐ **Dwayne McDuffie** ☐ **Marc Siry**
☐ **Dave Wohl** ☐ **Sara Tuchinsky**
☐ **Glenn Herdling** ☐ **Jim DiGiovanna**
☐ **Other** _____

Please send in your ballot to ASSISTANT EDITOR AWARDS, or me, DARYL EDELMAN, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ **Zip Code** _____

Please print clearly. We want to know who to grovel to.

MINUTEMEN
Bluntman